Oleai Sports Complex is burglarized and vandalized. PAGE 5
Rotary Club of Saipan welcomes new leadership. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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US allows last resort move for species threatened with extinction

By MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)— U.S. officials on Friday said they will make it easier for scientists to relocate plants and animals outside their historical ranges as a last resort to save species threatened with extinction by climate change.

Relocations of species struggling because of climate change have been carried out on a limited basis to date, including in Hawaii where researchers have raced to move seabirds

See EXTINCTION on Page 4

'LibDay parade a needed respite'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The flyover from a B-52 jet signaled the start of this year's 77th Liberation Day celebration with a parade that snaked north along a crowded Beach Road, from the National Office Supply to the grandstand at the Garapan Fishing Base.

See LIBDAY on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Representing the CNMI's multicultural heritage, various cultural offices banded together to create a float that encompasses the different indigenous cultures in the CNMI during the annual Liberation Day parade yesterday. For the Chamorro culture, the group featured a replica of the original Chamorro canoe seemingly sailing in the ocean.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Even before the start of the parade at 10am, people were already lined up and down the side of the Beach Road highway with colorful tents and costumes, from the front of the grandstand at the Garapan Fishing Base to the starting area down at the National Office Supply. *(Leigh Gases)*

■■■

See NOTEBOOK on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

87

Huffman: Chinese expansion throughout the region possibly largest threat to global order

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

China's expansion throughout the Pacific area is probably the biggest threat to global order, according to newly-installed Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman on Monday.

Speaking to reporters soon after guided-missile destroyer USS *John Finn* docked at the Port of Saipan for a port call, Huffman said that everybody who has been following the issue for a number

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Huffman

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Aqua Resort Club is celebrating its 34th anniversary today with a special lunch buffet.
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NATION
It was only in the mid-19th century when the American flag became a revered symbol.
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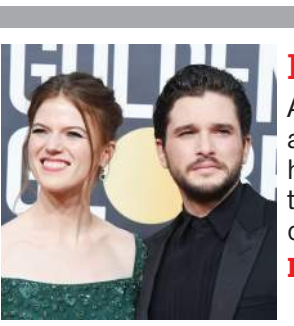

LIFE & STYLE
Actors Rose Leslie and Kit Harington have welcomed their second child, a daughter.
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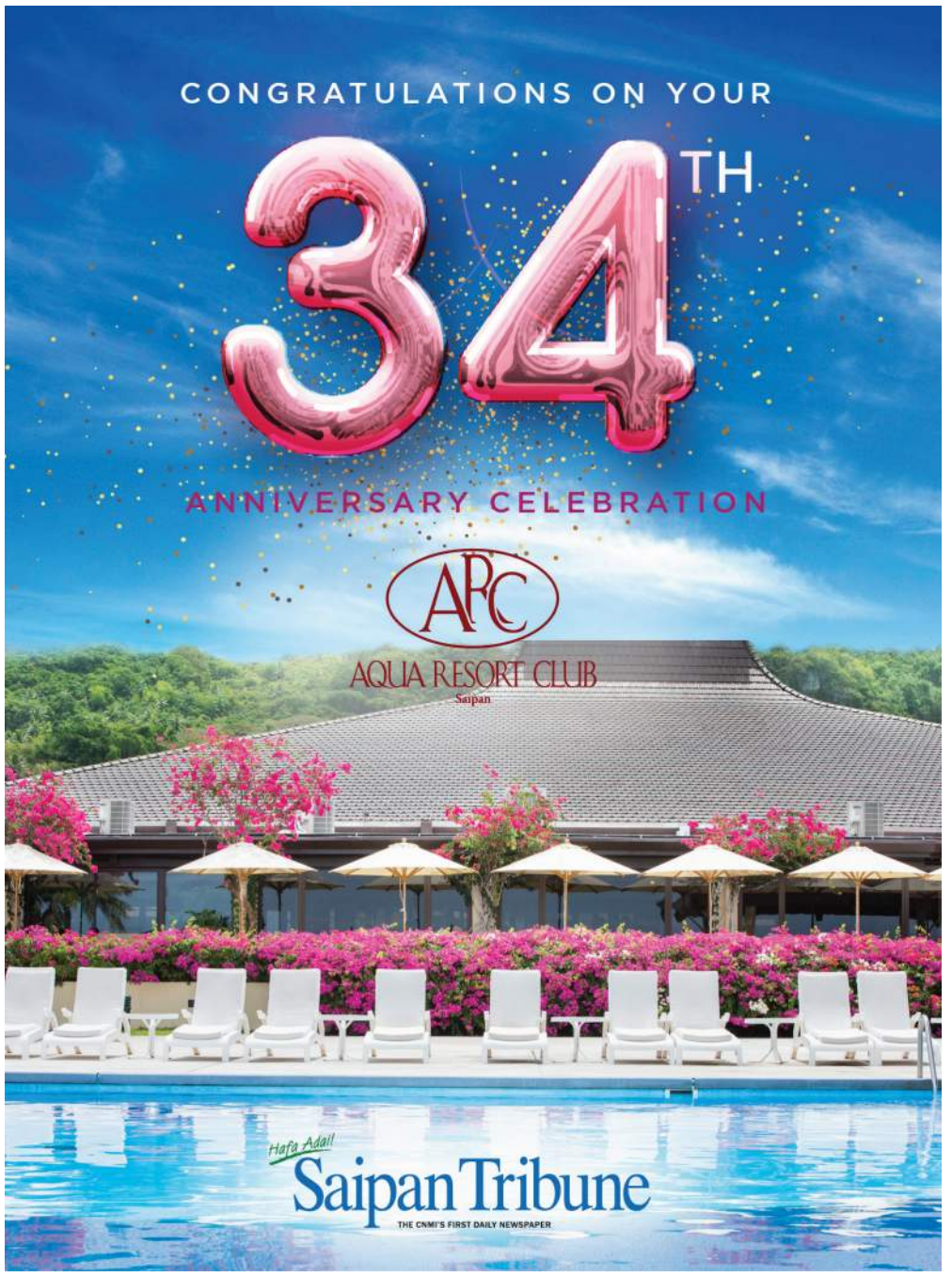


Local

Terlaje: OAG, NMC, others made some payments on past due bills

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several government agencies that that had been issued disconnection notices after failing to pay past due utility billings have made some partial payments, according to acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Betty G. Terlaje on Monday.

Terlaje said in an interview that the Northern Marianas College and the Office of the Attorney General have made some payments to CUC. She said there are other offices that made some payments, but that she has no information yet because that's what she's going to verify that afternoon at a meeting with CUC accounting, which manages government accounts, specifically on the update of all these disconnection notices.

Terlaje said she will also meet with their team that's doing the review and the work orders that were being sent out to verify the water and electric and who applied for that particular location.

With respect to the disconnection notice to the CNMI Judiciary, Terlaje said she has to verify if they made a partial payment.

Last May 3, CUC sent a disconnection notice to the Judiciary for unpaid $2.4-million utility services. The disconnection did not push through by the May 18, 2023, deadline after the Judiciary disputed the $1.6-million billing for the Guma' Hustisia building on Saipan.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja recently informed Terlaje that the Judiciary has been incorrectly charged $774,636 for water and $905,548 for wastewater/sewer services from July 2022 to the present.

Terlaje said the Judiciary is contesting their water bill as they feel that it is too high. "So we have our engineer checking down there, their water setup and their water meter and making sure that it's still functioning the way it needs to function," she said.

Terlaje said they are waiting for the results of the work orders that they sent out to verify some of their meters if there's leaks, or whatever other reasons they cited to dispute the billing.

In some cases, Terlaje said, the agencies are saying that that's not their usage, that it's not their account, or they already paid it a few years ago.

She said that CUC feels that their numbers are correct, but at the same time they take disputes seriously and look into it. Terlaje said they want to make sure that they can confirm with these agencies that it is their account, that the meters are working properly, based on the work orders and the field crew's inspections or verifications.

"And then we sit down with them. The plan is to sit down with the agencies and go through the numbers with them," said Terlaje, adding that those accounts that are not being contested should be paid for.

"And I believe that was made clear. And that is what we're verifying—if how much payment has been made on all the accounts," she added.

LIBERATION DAY COMMITTEE LEIGH GASES

Some members of the 77th Liberation Day Committee pose for a photo in front of their tent next to the grandstand yesterday morning at the Garapan Fishing Base.

$25K bail for man accused of sexually assaulting 9-year-old

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has imposed a $25,000 cash bail on a man accused of sexually assaulting a 9-year-old child.

During a bail hearing last Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $25,000 cash bail on John Roman Lisua, 38, who is facing charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

After the hearing, Lisua was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on July 10, for a preliminary hearing. Meanwhile, Lisua's arraignment is set for July 24, before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

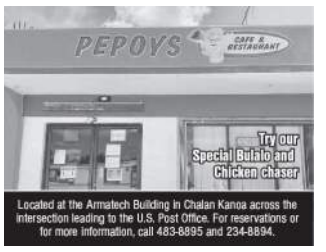
According to court documents, a woman and a 9-year-old child visited the Department of Public Safety's main office in Susupe last June 22 to file a complaint. The woman told police that Lisua sexually abused the child around April this year, but she only found out about it on the day they filed the complaint.

On June 27, the Department of Youth Services interviewed the child and learned that the abuse happened on April 19.

According to the child, Lisua had come entered the bedroom where she had been spending the night in the early hours of April 19. The victim alleges that Lisua removed her blanket and pants and sexually abused her.

The child told DYS that Lisua only stopped when she turned over and would not turn back despite the defendant forcing her to.

The victim claims she clearly saw that the person who sexually abused her was Lisua because when he came into the room and removed her blanket, a lamp was still on.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$1K bail set for man accused of trespassing

The Superior court has imposed a $1,000 cash bail on a man accused of criminal trespassing after he allegedly entered a local store and harassed customers for money.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho signed off last Friday on an arrest warrant with the bail set at $1,000 for Jimmy P. Kaipat.

Kaipat, 24, is accused of harassing Blue Sky Supermarket customers. He is facing charges of criminal trespass and disturbing the peace.

According to court documents, Kaipat entered Blue Sky Supermarket in Afetna and was allegedly asking money from its customers.

"The defendant unlawfully and without authorization entered upon or interfered with the peaceful use and enjoyment of the property of another, and upon being lawfully advised to leave or desist refused to do so," said the complaint.

Kaipat also allegedly resisted arrest. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

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NOTEBOOK

From page 1

Heading down to the Garapan Fishing Base in the morning, the skies looked mean and dark—with the north side of the island dealt with heavy rain. In Garapan, however, the skies were clear and for once, the parade wasn't rained on. ***(Leigh Gases)***

■■■

The return of CNMI's tourism market has been regularly documented on various media platforms, be it print news or television. Although it is true, most of the time the information is based off reports from airlines and government officials.

However, during the annual Liberation Day parade yesterday along Beach Road, the reports claiming tourists have returned became more of a reality as tourists walked through the crowded street of Garapan with their selfie sticks out to capture the parade.

Some of these tourists were ecstatic to see their culture represented in some of the floats through either the Korean association or the Japanese association who took part in yesterday's festivities. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

■■■

The crowd got a kick out of a taxi van that got caught in the line of cars and floats that took part in the annual Liberation Day parade.

As car clubs paraded their unique car builds yesterday afternoon along Beach Road revving and honking, it was definitely a shock for many to see the procession of customized vehicles followed by a plain van with the taxi sign on its roof.

It didn't take long for the crowd to realize that the jolly man behind the wheel was just headed to work yesterday morning, probably forgetting that Beach Road would be closed off early in preparation of the parade.

Instead of getting frustrated after waiting in line for hours to get through, the taxi driver was a good sport and decided to honk and wave as he made his way through the parade route. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

■■■

A parade wouldn't be complete without a drunk man causing a commotion.

Fortunately, the commotion caused yesterday was a good one as a drunk man stopped passing parade floats to commend them for their hard work and creativity. The stop kind of delayed the parade a little but not by much.

Aside from stopping some of the floats, the man even decided to join some of the dancers who were part of the procession. Despite not knowing the dance, he still danced and got laughs out of the crowd and the parade participants. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

■■■

One of the biggest number of marchers came from the NMI Football Association again. Football players, mostly youths, made the parade come alive as some showed off their skillful moves. Football has become a very popular sport on Saipan in the past few years. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

■■■

For the first time, the Legislature, through the House of Representatives, joined the Liberation Parade. On a small float were Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, Reps. Ralph N. Yumul, Malcom Jason Omar, Julie Marie A. Ogo, Angelo A. Camacho, Manny Gregory T. Castro, and John Paul P. Sablan. The House float was the last in the line. The Senate did not join the parade as most of the senators are on leave or not on island. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

■■■

It was mostly cloudy and really muggy for the parade's duration. Not only was it hot, but it was also humid. It usually rains during the annual Liberation Parade. But this time, not even a drizzle. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

■■■

Sporting different costumes, several audience members were also dressed for the occasion, with costumes ranging from the cultural to the traditional red, white, and blue.

One man mixed his culture and what resembled a reggae outfit and even a full-on wig and a wraparound. But because of the heat, while waiting for the event to start, he would remove the fake mane. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

■■■

While aboard one of the floats, it was during the wait time (pre-event) that a waft of evil odor blew in from one of the jungled masses of trees just on the side of road. One woman began sniffing a minty stick of gum so she wouldn't be nauseous. ***(Chrystal Marino)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

EXTINCTION

From page 1

to new islands to save them from rising ocean waters.

A change in federal regulations published Friday by the Biden administration would allow similar relocations for some of the most imperiled plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act.

It also allows for relocations when a species is being crowded out by nonnative plants or wildlife. This summer officials plan to introduce Guam kingfishers on the Palmyra Atoll south of Hawaii, after brown tree snakes accidentally brought to Guam around 1950 decimated their population. The birds are extinct in the wild but maintained in zoos.

Moving species into new areas was long considered taboo because of the potential to disrupt native ecosystems and crowd out local flora and fauna. The practice is gaining acceptance among many scientists and government officials as climate change alters habitats around the globe.

Federal officials said the impacts of climate change had not been fully realized when they adopted previous rules preventing endangered species relocations. As global warming intensifies, habitat changes are "forcing some wildlife to new areas to survive, while squeezing other species closer to extinction," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement.

She said allowing relocations would strengthen conservation efforts and help protect species for coming generations.

Republicans in Western states—where gray wolves were reintroduced two decades ago over strong local objections—opposed the proposal. Officials in Montana, New Mexico and Arizona warned relocations could wreak ecological havoc as "invasive species" get purposefully introduced.

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte's spokesperson, Jack O'Brien, said state officials would review the changes but expressed disappointment federal officials announced them heading into a holiday weekend.

Examples abound of ecological disasters caused by species introduced to new areas—from Asian carp spreading through rivers and streams across the U.S., to starlings from Europe destroying crops and driving out songbirds.

Other state wildlife officials were supportive of the change and along with outside scientists have suggested species that could benefit. Those include Key deer of southern Florida, desert flowers in Nevada and California and the St. Croix ground lizard in the Virgin Islands.

Patrick Donnelly with the Center for Biological Diversity said he was concerned the rule could be abused to allow habitat destruction to make way for development. His group has fought plans for a Nevada lithium mine where an endangered desert wildflower is found. The developer has proposed transplanting the Tiehm's buckwheat and growing new plants elsewhere.

"The Tiehm's buckwheat situation has raised the specter of a mining company intentionally destroying an endangered species' habitat and then attempting to create new habitat elsewhere as compensation," Donnelly said. "It's troubling that this new rule doesn't contain an explicit prohibition on such an arrangement."

LIBDAY

From page 1

Early morning showers briefly appeared before the parade's start, but the weather held up and sunlight poked through scattered clouds all morning through the afternoon. This was the second Liberation Day Parade in the CNMI since the COVID-19 pandemic halted this public spectacle; the practice of having a July 4 parade resumed last year.

After the parade, Palacios said many in the community came out to watch "because I guess they needed a break from everything else. This is one of the first major events here but I hope we ac continue to do things like this again."

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho billed his first parade as mayor a successful one—with 44 parade entries and 15 floats.

This year's parade also had a float competition and the 2023 Liberation Day Committee will announce the winners later. As part of cost-cutting measures, the parade did not feature the traditional Liberation Day Royal Court.

In an interview after the parade, Camacho said, "I was almost speechless. This is really the meaning of the theme 'Resiliency Rising.' Whatever obstacles we went through, it showed today that we are all resilient and we are rising together.

"I thank the community, the partnership, and the media. Thank you so much for making this event a really successful one," he said. About the turnout, "There were a lot of people and they were enjoying themselves. The floats and participants all looked nice and I'm so impressed."

Participants of the parade performed in front of the grandstand and presented gifts to the delegates in attendance, including Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and first lady Wella Palacios, Lt. Gov. and Liberation Day grand marshal David M. Apatang, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, Northern Islands Mayor Valentino N. Taisacan, and various U.S. military VIPs led by Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman.

The start of the parade kicked off with the roar and booming sound of motorcycles from the Young Gunz, followed by the U.S. Army Reserve Color Guards, then Camacho and Apatang.

Unlike the traditional Fourth of July that is celebrated in the U.S, mainland, Liberation Day marks the occasion when the gates of the local internment camp, called Camp Susupe—where the CNMI's civilian population s were kept during World War II—were officially opened.

In her remarks in the commemorative booklet, 2023 Liberation Day Committee chair Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero thanked committee members and volunteers for their hard work on putting together this years' festivities.

The Liberation festival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base officially opened last Saturday, July 1, with over 30 booths. It will last until Saturday, July 22.

On Thursdays and Sundays, the hours of operations are from 5pm to 10pm; on Fridays and Saturdays, it will be from 5pm to 12am. Operations will stop Mondays through Wednesdays, except yesterday, when the carnival grounds was open until midnight.

CHINESE

From page 1

of years has come to that realization—that the Chinese expansion is also probably the biggest threat to the rules-based order that everyone must adhere to, which is critical to the free flow of goods for commerce and economic development.

"Absolutely, that's the biggest threat that we face at this point and that is something that we will continue to work with our allies throughout the region and…with the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," said Huffman.

Huffman himself accompanied Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in a tour aboard USS *John Finn* Monday afternoon as they welcomed the vessel's commanding officer, Matthew Hays, and its crew to Saipan.

Huffman's predecessor, Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson also affirmed in an interview last April that the People's Republic of China has been increasing its activities throughout Micronesia and that they are closely watching it.

Huffman said the support of the civilians in this region to the military has been fantastic. "I've been in the area for about a month now, and every single person I have met has been so welcoming and I know that the people of Saipan have been incredibly welcoming to the crew of the *John Finn*," he said.

Huffman said it just show how closely interlinked they are, how they rely upon each other, and how "we are all part of one team in one nation."

Speaking about the ongoing divert airfield project on Tinian, Huffman said they continue to work closely with the CNMI community as they move forward on that project.

"I don't have any other specific updates on that at this time, but it is on track and moving forward," he said.

The Tinian divert airfield construction project is composed of two phases—Phase 1 is airfield development and Phase 2 involves a parking apron. The divert airfield will allow the U.S. Air Force to use Tinian as an alternative landing site for its planes in case Anderson Air Base in Guam is inaccessible due to war or calamities.

In his Liberation Day message, Huffman said the resilient people of this community who are from all cultural backgrounds have had a hand in the liberation, growth, and stability of this region.

"The sailors, soldiers, airmen, and Marines serving honorably in our Pacific homeland are grateful to celebrate alongside each of you," he said.

Huffman said that Joint Region Marianas celebrates alongside the CNMI this Liberation Day.

"May our Pacific homelands be safeguarded, and let us continue to forge a stronger community and region together as we enjoy a free and open Indo-Pacific for generations to come," he said.

Huffman officially took command of Joint Region Marianas, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Task Force West last June 21. He is now the senior military official of the U.S. Pacific Command in the CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau.

Huffman is a 1989 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He earned a Master of Arts in History from the University of Maryland in 1989 and a Master of Science in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee in 2000.

Huffman flew combat missions over Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He received many personal awards and was named the Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic F/A-18 Pilot of the Year for 1996, and won the Mike Longardt Leadership Award in 2001.

Oleai Sports Complex is burglarized and vandalized

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Oleai Sports Complex was burglarized and vandalized over the weekend, with the perpetrator(s) taking over $1,000 worth of equipment used to maintain the facilities.

The Northern Marianas Sports Association, which manages the sports complex, expressed disappointment over the incident, saying it has been improving the facility for the community to enjoy and for their safety in the past three years and that the equipment that were stolen were being used for maintenance of the facility.

In an interview with Nathan Guerrero, facilities supervisor for the Oleai Sports Complex, he said that one of the sports complex's storage containers was broken into over the weekend with the perpetrator(s) taking equipment specifically used to maintain the fields like bush cutters, leaf blowers, and more. Guerrero said they continue to inventory the equipment to find out what else were stolen over the weekend.

"This morning, one of our staff came into work and was making his way to our storage container where we hold the stuff used to maintain the fields. When he got to the container, he noticed that one of the container doors was open and the padlock had been broken. As he was going in, he realized that some of our stuff was missing like bush cutters, leaf blowers, things used to maintain the field. Immediately he called the Department of Public Safety to investigate the scene. They wrapped up their preliminary investigation around 10am," he said.

When asked as to when they suspect the incident happened, Guerrero said it most likely happened over the weekend.

"We didn't have any event this weekend, so we are thinking that the incident happened during the weekend when nobody was here," Guerrero said.

Aside from the burglary, the perpetrator(s) also vandalized and spray-painted the storage containers and the Little League Baseball field, which was supposed to undergo improvements this week.

Guerrero said it was saddening to see the current state of the facilities.

"We don't have suspects yet [but] whoever did this also vandalized the Little League field, which we were supposed to start painting, but it's tough to make these improvements if people will continue to vandalize the facilities. It costs a lot of money. Times are hard for everybody and we can't afford to keep painting over vandalism," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned this burglary was the second such incident, with the first one happening around December last year.

"This is the second burglary. The first incident happened last Dec. 25, 2022. The suspects robbed the baseball storage box used to hold our baseball equipment that were used during the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. It's tough because these equipment are used for the community. It's used by NMSA to host tournaments for the community, especially our kids who will participate in upcoming leagues like baseball, track and field, etc.," he said.

Fortunately, following the December incident, the sports complex was able to get most of the stolen items back.

"We are still waiting to retrieve more. But most of the stolen items from the December incident, we have gotten back," said Guerrero. He did not elaborate.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

One of the Oleai Sports Complex's storage containers is broken into and spray-painted by vandals.

Andersen continues operations following Typhoon Mawar

By ERIC SUMMERS
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—More than 30 days after Typhoon Mawar hit Guam in May, members of Team Andersen have been working to restore the Andersen Air Force Base and helping the local community.

Several flight line structures sustained damage, but members worked hard to return the flight line to a fully operational status and completed a foreign object debris walk to remove any items off the airfield that landed there due to the storm.

While the total cost of damages to the base are still being calculated, a project management office will be stood up on the installation to help with the repair and rebuilding for the foreseeable future.

"Typhoon Mawar was a unique storm that is providing unique challenges at Andersen that we did not face at Tyndall or Offutt," said Col. Dustin Born, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Detachment 2 PMO team lead. "Andersen faces a lot of roof, door and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning repairs to bring facilities back to where they were before the storm but due to the amazing response of on-site crews the mission has never faltered."

Typhoon Mawar battered Anderson AFB and the island of Guam with winds reaching 140 mph and up to 28 inches of rain on May 24, 2023. It left a destructive path across the island and was the strongest storm in more than 20 years, the previous being Super Typhoon Pongsona. Andersen AFB was left with damage to facilities and equipment, but this did not stop the mission.

The 734th Air Mobility Squadron assigned to Andersen AFB has since received a total of 134 aircraft ranging from passenger planes and commercial airliners, to U.S. Navy aircraft and foreign partner aircraft. The unit also received 906 personnel to include aid workers and helped 576 people leave the island. They have also received 1,828,505 lbs of cargo to include humanitarian aid.

While ensuring operations on the base are able to continue, members have also provided assistance to the local community.

Since Typhoon Mawar, Team Andersen members have devoted more than 3,520 man hours to helping the residents of Guam. Members have distributed over 325,600 meals, 590,400 liters of water and 500 blankets. Also along with Task Force RISE UP, the 554th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers have repaired 36 roofs of homes across the island.

"Typhoon Mawar was a devastating storm with impacts felt all across the island," said Brig. Gen. Paul Fast, 36th Wing commander. "I cannot be more proud of the team here at Andersen in the resilience the airmen and families have shown. From the preparations when we were first notified about Typhoon Mawar to where we are 30 days after the storm and continuing operations. We are actively projecting airpower and leading the way from the forward edge of the Indo-Pacific."

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SUBMISSION DATE: August 04, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 05, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 21, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 27, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2023

Opening date: July 03, 2023 Closing date: July 21, 2023

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) Grants Specialist	PL 15/1 to 15/12 ($14.38/hr to $24.60/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
	(1) Procurement Clerk	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 21, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Rotary Club of Saipan welcomes new leadership

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
(br)chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The 2023-2024 Rotary Club of Saipan officers pose for a picture next to CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry Inos following their swearing in during an induction ceremony last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Beginning their 2023-2024 Rotary Year, members of the Rotary Club of Saipan welcomed their new leadership during an induction ceremony last Saturday evening at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Former club members and officers, plus several members of the youth group Rotaract, were among the crowd during the ceremony that evening, and joined the Rotary Club of Saipan in welcoming this year's officers and directors. Irene Holl was inducted as president; Joann Tajalle Aquino is the president-elect; Charles V. Cepeda became vice president; Mario Valentino is the new secretary; Donna Krum took over as treasurer; Curtis Dancoe is sergeant-at arms; Das Krishnan is the Club Service director; William Richard "Billy" Grow is Community director; Sean Ficke is the new Foundation director; John Arroyo is Vocational director;, Gregory Pat Borja assumed the role of PP and New Generation; and Wendell Mary Posadas became the International director.

Holl

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry Inos swore in the new club officers. Several members were not able to be present for their induction, including, Dancoe, Arroyo, and Ficke.

In her remarks, Holl expressed gratitude and appreciation to all past Rotary presidents, charter members past and present, and all Rotarians, Interact, and Roteract members in the room.

"I am so proud to be a Rotarian because Rotary lets ordinary people like me do extraordinary things. I would sincerely like to thank all the members of the Rotary Club of Saipan because you are actually the backbone of our club. Year after year we continue to create a difference in other people's lives…"

She also said that they must continue to acknowledge the past as they move forward. She also paid tribute to former Rotarians who have already passed away.

The theme of Rotary Year 2023-2024 is "Create Hope in the World," and Holl highlighted several goals that 2023-2024 Rotary International president Gordon McInally earlier mentioned: Efforts to expand Rotary and Rotaract collaboration and mutual support; the continuance women empowerment for young girls, advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in everything that they do; creating a new sense of urgency to end polio; and continue to speak on and spread awareness on the importance of mental health.

Personally, Holl wants to focus on continuing the fight against diabetes, supporting education, and protecting the environment. "So fellow Rotarians…I humbly ask for your support and urge you to be energized or reenergized if necessary, and join me in making our club even better in the coming year. I am ready."

Holl is also the Rotary Club of Saipan's second female president.

Two new Rotary members were inducted during the event: Debralyn D. Santos and Vicente S. Agulto.

JOB OPENING

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER
EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Job Duties:
Provides instruction at the Secondary School level in the following classes: Fundamental Math, Algebra I and Geometry; creates lesson plans; evaluates student performance and provides feedback; communicates students' progress to parents; develops and updates curriculum for the classroom; maintains accurate records of students' progress; keeps order in the classroom; posts grades and sends grade reports to parents; performs other teaching-related duties.

Other requirements:
Baccalaureate degree in liberal arts, stem-science, or engineering; ability to communicate and interact with students and parents; ability to encourage and motivate students; basic computer and Microsoft software skills.

Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai

Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950

E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu

MVA

OMG – OH MY GRILL TOPS 'TASTE' BOOTH DECORATING CONTEST

On behalf of OMG – Oh My Grill, Karen Kalen, center, receives the first place prize on June 24, 2023, in the booth decorating contest of the 24th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan. From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Kalen, and MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

MVA

On behalf of Korean Cup Bap, Dante Conlu, center, receives the second place prize on June 24, 2023, in the booth decorating contest of the 24th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan. From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Conlu, and MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

MVA

On behalf of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Banquets & Events director Das Krishnan, center, receives the third place prize on June 24, 2023, in the booth decorating contest of the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan. From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Krishnan, and MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, left, presents the fourth place award to Rizalyn Joson of Vi-lyn's BBQ on June 24, 2023, in the booth decorating contest at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden, at Garapan Fishing Base. At right is MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Plan, direct, manages, and coordinates the operations of the company such as but are not limited to formulating policies, overseeing daily operations, planning the use of materials and human resources. Improve operational systems, processes and best practices that guarantee the company well-being. Recruit, interview, and train personnel. Prepare and process employees USCIS work authorization documents. Assess staff performance and provide coaching and guidance to ensure maximum efficiency. Ensure the smooth and adequate flow of information within the company to facilitate other business operations. Make work schedule for laundromat employees. Monitor, encode, handle, and prepare monthly expense report on assigned accounts. Review and revise leasing documents such as rental agreement, related documents & forms. Prepare monthly rental billing, collect rents, and summarize monthly collections and tenants accounts. Review & summarize assigned accounts monthly reports. Ensure operations adhere to company policies & regulations and complies with all Governmental regulations and requirements. Ensure all licenses, permits, and regulating agencies compliance are timely filed, renewed and complied. Attend seminars, meetings, public hearings and other related forums to keep abreast and updated with relevant changes that will impact business operations. Deal, handle and correspond with private and Gov't agencies. Review company agreements and contracts; make analysis and recommendations for revisions & improvements. Provide assistance and reports to executives & managers with operations and administrative duties. Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Mathematics, or Economics with 5-year experience in the position.

Send Resume, transcript, & supporting credentials to
P&A CORPORATION ATTN: DOYI KIM
P.O. Box 506003, Saipan MP96950 saipanwinners5@gmail.com

77th Liberation Day Parade

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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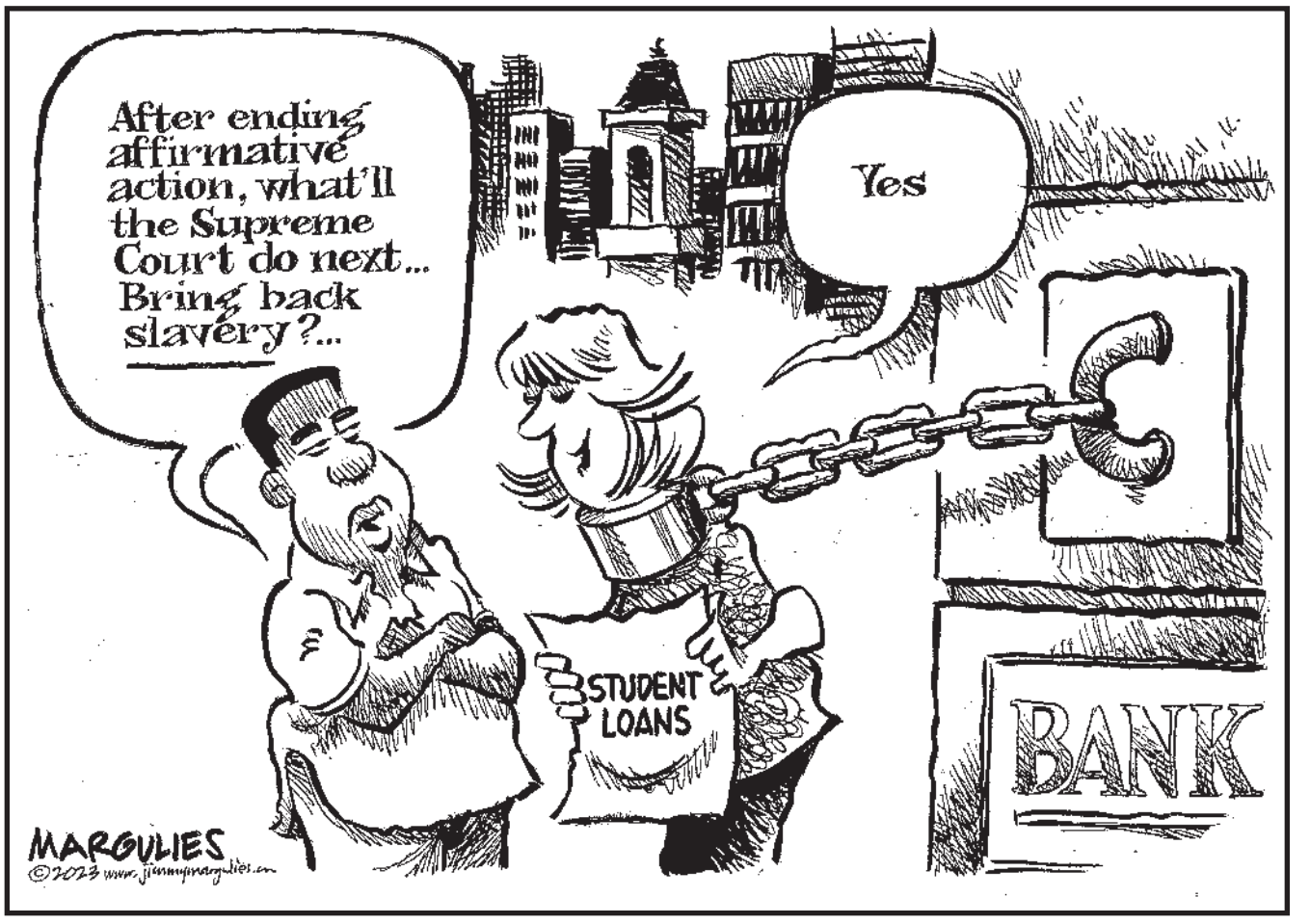

EDITORIAL

Rebellion reflects the rot in Russia

The short-lived rebellion by Yevgeny Prigozhin, leader of the mercenary Wagner Group, did not yet jettison the Kremlin's military leadership. But it may have had a more profound domestic and geopolitical impact: piercing the aura of invincibility so carefully cultivated by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

How this plays out in Moscow with military, political and economic elites, let alone regular Russians, remains to be seen. But it should further steel Kyiv—as well as Washington and Brussels, home to NATO—for maximum support for Ukraine's counteroffensive.

While the opaque nature of Russian politics and the fluidity of the situation leave more questions than answers, "What we do know is this was a demonstrable crack into [Putin's] strength at home," U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., told an editorial writer. "This shows that there is weakness in his regime."

In fact, for everyday Russians, "this puts a kind of kernel of a question about how stable Putin and his regime is right now," said Anthony Lott, an associate professor of political science at St. Olaf College. Lott, whose scholarship specializes in national and international security issues, added that the rapid advancement of Wagner Group soldiers through southwestern Russia to within 125 miles of Moscow might have been keenly observed by many, including soldiers, whose morale may sink even lower.

Especially after Prigozhin rejected the Kremlin's line on the war, which he said in an online video "wasn't for demilitarizing of denazifying Ukraine; it was needed for an extra [Hero] star" for Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu. Prigozhin, whose war crimes likely rival Putin's, should not be conflated with real reformers like imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny. But Prigozhin did call out the truth when he added that the war was being fought for oligarchs, "the clan which in practice rules Russia today."

Even in Putin's Russia, Lott said, "You can't control the narrative like you could through state control of the media." As for Putin himself, "He could rule through subterfuge and through coercion and through manipulation and this [rebellion] must have, just on a psychological level, created a great deal of dissonance in his world."

It also should clarify for Ukraine that fighting back against Russia's brutal, illegal invasion is not only righteous but the right strategy against a weakened leader. And the eventual dissolution of the Wagner Group (with some fighters joining the regular Russian Army) opens a window now that the most effective fighting force is sidelined.

But as the counteroffensive progresses, however haltingly, the risk of even more war crimes by Putin's regime increases. The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam is a "clear example," Lott said, adding that the possibility of Russia similarly destroying the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and even Putin using tactical nuclear weapons has heightened. Accordingly, the Western alliance should amplify its warnings that such action would have dire consequences for Russia.

Washington should be as motivated and creative in rallying allies to Ukraine's defense. Because ultimately the Western, and in fact world, order is at stake. "This visible

See REBELLION on Page

Personal responsibility

By KEVIN FRAZIER
The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier will join the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University as an Assistant Professor starting this Fall. He currently is a clerk on the Montana Supreme Court. The Fulcrum *covers what's making democracy dysfunctional and efforts to fix our governing systems. Sign up for our newsletter at thefulcrum.us.* The Fulcrum *is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news platform covering efforts to fix our governing systems. It is a project of, but editorially independent from,* Issue One.

At a time when so many issues seem beyond the control of any one person, it's important to remember that the institutions capable of changing the status quo are made up of folks like you and me. In other words, individuals can change the world by changing the institutions they drive and keep running. A teacher can reorient a school. An engineer can alter a company. An organizer can upend a community. That said, an individual's efforts will only bring about collective change if that one person gives others opportunities to join them.

The importance of courageous contrarians and the collaborators they attempt to inspire to join them became all the clearer during my two-week tour of Berlin and Krakow with Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE).

On that trip, I learned about Lothar Kreyssig, a district court judge at the time of Hitler's reign and an example of a courageous contrarian. Early in 1940, the Nazi regime launched Operation T-4, which involved the killing of individuals unfit and unworthy of Aryan race due to epilepsy, schizophrenia, asocial behavior, and "mental enfeeblement." Many professionals—including doctors and lawyers—made those killings possible. Yet, Judge Kreyssig dared to steer members of the legal community away from perpetuating this system.

> All of us bear a responsibility to take whatever actions are necessary to disrupt institutions that sow discord, foment inequality, and divide our communities.

Judge Kreyssig soon realized that patients sent to Operation T-4 killing sites never returned. In response, he did not merely hope that the institution would suddenly reverse its ways. Instead, he took all available actions to protect those under his care as their legal guardian and provided others with an opportunity to join him in ending a horrific practice. First, he instructed the State Hospital to not release any of his wards without his approval. Second, he traveled to one of the killing sites to again order that none of his patients be transferred to that location. In short, he recognized that his individual actions—though just a ripple—could catch the attention of others and bring about a wave of institutional reform.

Sadly, such a wave never formed. Others refrained from supporting Judge Kreyssig's efforts. Soon he found himself forced into retirement—unable to prevent thousands of killings under Operation T-4.

One could interpret Judge Kreyssig's courageous stand as a failed effort. He stood up to a killing machine that simply evolved, grew larger, and succeeded in many of its worst goals. Still, Judge Kreyysig opened a door to resistance that others could have followed. The mere act of creating such an opportunity reduced the odds of catastrophe—though his gamble did not pay off it could have and that's all any individual can hope to do.

To bring things into the modern era, Frances Haugen—the Meta whistleblower—provides an example of a courageous contrarian who managed to place a winning bet on upending an institution. Haugen and Judge Kreyssig both risked their jobs and reputations to encourage the reform of massive institutions—in Haugen's case, others shared her courage and followed her lead. Members of the press picked up her story. Congressional officials gave her a platform. Her former colleagues verified her allegations and, to some extent, affirmatively responded to the concerns she raised.

A lack of change cannot and should not be blamed on institutional rigidity and resilience—every institution is just the sum of a finite group of individuals. Each of those individuals have agency and, consequently, power over that institution. At a minimum, they can choose to reject an assignment, to delay a duty, or to otherwise poorly perform their job. Such actions may not seem revolutionary but such actions can cause ripples that turn into waves of reform.

Cynicism is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you think institutions are too large to change, then they will carry on as is and your power to leverage your influence will go unrealized. Some are better positioned than others to take risks that may jeopardize their lives and their well-being. But all of us bear a responsibility to take whatever actions are necessary to disrupt institutions that sow discord, foment inequality, and divide our communities. The risks you take may spark another to contribute to the movement—a pattern that, when repeated, can result in institutional change and societal reform.

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As mental health worsens among college students, schools and instructors must adapt

By ANDREW REINER
The Baltimore Sun

Andrew Reiner teaches at Towson University and is the author of Better Boys, Better Men: The New Masculinity That Creates Greater Courage and Emotional Resiliency. *(HarperOne, 2020).)*

The new job requirement that takes up much time in higher education has little to do with grading papers or crafting lectures. It's trying to keep our students academically buoyant and completing our courses amid a growing mental health epidemic. Many well-meaning educators (me included) are merely applying Band-Aids to the problem by allowing students to hand in assignments at semester's end, looking the other way at disturbing attendance rates and helping them across the finish line, sometimes with limited proficiency. (This doesn't even speak to the growing numbers of students who stop attending classes and don't return concerned instructors' emails.)

Unless colleges devise more creative mental health safety nets, they risk losing or partially preparing a generation of college students.

This crisis was borne out in a landmark 2022 study that surveyed 350,000 students from more than 300 different colleges. It found that between 2013 and 2021 depression increased by 135% and anxiety by 110%. (The number of students suffering from one or more mental health problems doubled.) Native American and Alaskan native students experienced the greatest increase in mental health issues in that study. The 2023 report "The State of Higher Education" found that Hispanic, Black and male students were hit hardest in American colleges. Fifty-five percent of them considered opting out of school due to "emotional stress" and 47% for "mental health" struggles. This doesn't even address this generation's profound loneliness.

Aside from depression and general anxiety disorder, one of the biggest contributing factors to students' academic struggles centers around a brand of mental illness that deserves greater attention: social anxiety. This obsessive concern with, among other things, being judged by peers for words and actions negatively impacted 36% of 7,000 16-29 year-olds in global research. Social anxiety affects not just our identities, but our relationships, mental health and, as another study found, "success in education" (think: negative implications for test performance, completing courses, graduating and, as my own students have confessed, attending classes and engaging in discussions).

Add to this the chronic level of unhealthy stress students feel from carrying crushing credit loads, working daytime jobs to pay for college (as is the case for many at my school) and parental pressure and criticism—which results in maladaptive perfectionism—and it makes sense that so many students are shutting down.

Some schools have been developing approaches that draw on less conventional resources. Penn State's Red Folder program trains faculty to "recognize, respond, and refer" students who exhibit a change in physical appearance and academic behavior—even food workers are taught to recognize possible eating disorders in students. (I have witnessed a re-engagement in students after I check in on them when they miss multiple classes.)

Cornell's Let's Talk program encourages otherwise reluctant students to drop in, sans appointment, for a quick chat with a counselor about a specific problem and potential solutions, and as a way of easing students into the therapeutic process.

Perhaps the most effective means of helping struggling students is by empowering them. The University of Virginia started a peer-staffed counseling service for Black students called Project Rise, after counseling center administrators discovered that 75% of students would reach out to another peer when in distress, as opposed to faculty or staff members. Mental health apps, such as Mindshift for anxiety and Shine for people of color, have been growing in popularity because they are self-paced, can be engaged anywhere at any time, and guarantee anonymity, important to males and people of color, especially, who sometimes fear the stigma of seeking mental health resources.

With some inventive, collaborative planning that gives students more agency and encourages some degree of oversight from faculty and staff we just might keep more of our students academically and emotionally afloat. This means colleges need to make mental health support central and permanent to their mission.

Sorry, founders, we've never been created equal

By GEORGE SKELTON
Los Angeles Times

Political columnist George Skelton has covered government and politics for nearly 60 years and for The Los Angeles Times *since 1974.*

The Fourth of July should never be celebrated without revisiting the hallowed words that crown the Declaration of Independence and symbolize the American Dream.

And right now, it's fair to ask whether that majestic passage fits with the Supreme Court's landmark decision banning race-conscious affirmative action in university admissions—or is it in conflict.

The sentence most of us studied in school:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The nation's founders backed their revolutionary split from Great Britain with this solemn proclamation: "We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

It was a noble declaration of principles that carried no legal weight and had little resemblance to real life—even for many of the signers. For the majority of them—including principal drafters Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams—their fortunes included slaves, who were treated the opposite of equals.

Slavery continued legally in America for 89 more years. It took the Civil War, the deaths of an estimated 620,000 soldiers and arguably America's greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, to abolish slavery.

Although the Declaration of Independence proclaimed that all men are created equal, it was silent about women. They were not allowed to vote for 143 more years.

All men were created equal except slaves, Native Americans and other people of color. Native Americans were butchered in the name of progress and Manifest Destiny.

In California, Chinese immigration was prohibited by "exclusion" acts into the 20th century. The Alien Land Act of 1913 barred Japanese immigrants from owning property.

Housing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion—whatever—was legal and common in California until the mid-1960s. A heroic Gov. Pat Brown, a skittish Democratic-controlled Legislature and ultimately the California Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court outlawed discrimination in home selling and renting.

On July 4, 1776, all Americans definitely had not been created equal. And today they still haven't been. But we've made good progress toward leveling life's playing field, taking steps the founders never could have envisioned.

Back to the conservative court's historic affirmative action ruling last week: On a 6-3 vote, it struck down university policies that use race as a factor in deciding which students get admitted.

Many universities have focused too much on race, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. asserted.

"They have concluded, wrongly, that the touchstone of an individual's identity is not challenges bested, skills built or lessons learned but the color of their skin," Roberts wrote for the majority. "Our constitutional history does not tolerate that choice."

He also wrote that "an individual's race may never be used against him in the admissions process."

My layman's interpretation of that: A white or Asian American applicant, for example, should not be denied admission solely for the purpose of making room for a Black or Latino student.

For the minority, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote: "The majority's vision of race neutrality will entrench racial segregation in higher education because racial inequality will persist so long as it is ignored."

Supporters of affirmative action say that admission to a prestigious university provides an invaluable leg up in a graduate's pursuit of a successful career and helps to mitigate generations of systemic racism.

For the record, I've always believed that we shouldn't fight discrimination by discriminating.

It's uncomfortable, however, to side with this far-right court that was shaped by Donald Trump, the most distasteful president in history.

Given our political polarization, I suspect that if affirmative action could be placed on the California ballot next year, it might well be approved. Voters likely would think: If Trump's against affirmative action, it must be good policy.

It's a paradox that this deep-blue state has twice voted against affirmative action in public education, contracting and employment based on race, ethnicity and gender.

The first time was in 1996. The campaign was especially nasty. Affirmative action supporters ran TV ads equating opponents with Ku Klux Klansmen in white robes and hoods. That backfired. Californians voted by a 9-percentage-point margin to ban affirmative action.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, the Legislature placed a measure on the 2020 ballot to reinstate affirmative action. It lost overwhelmingly by 14 percentage points.

So, when Gov. Gavin Newsom railed against the court's ruling last week, it sounded awkward because, after all, the justices had voted basically the way Californians did just three years earlier.

"Right-wing activists—including those donning robes—are trying to take us back to the era of book bans and segregated campuses," Newsom declared.

"While the path to equal opportunity has now been narrowed for millions of students…[California] campus doors remain open for all who want to work hard—and our commitment to diversity, equity and equal opportunity has never been stronger."

But on affirmative action, California voters are with Florida—a state whose conservative policies Newsom obsessively denounces.

California has always prided itself on being a national leader on groundbreaking issues. And it clearly is on affirmative action, whether Newsom likes it or not.

In fact, other states could learn a lot from California about how to diversify their universities without race-based affirmative action.

As Times education writers Teresa Watanabe and Debbie Truong reported, University of California campuses have made notable strides. Black and Latino students represented 43% of the admitted first-year class of Californians for fall 2022, compared with only about 20% before affirmative action was banned a quarter century ago.

We're still agonizing over to what extent one person in the pursuit of happiness is allowed to shove aside someone else. It's a question guaranteed to generate political fireworks.

REBELLION

From Page 9

crack to Putin's leadership should only cement our support for Ukraine," Klobuchar said. "We are on the side of right—we're also on the side of democracies. And if [Putin] rolls over this country, with this kind of moral reasoning, he won't stop anywhere. And then our problem is much bigger."

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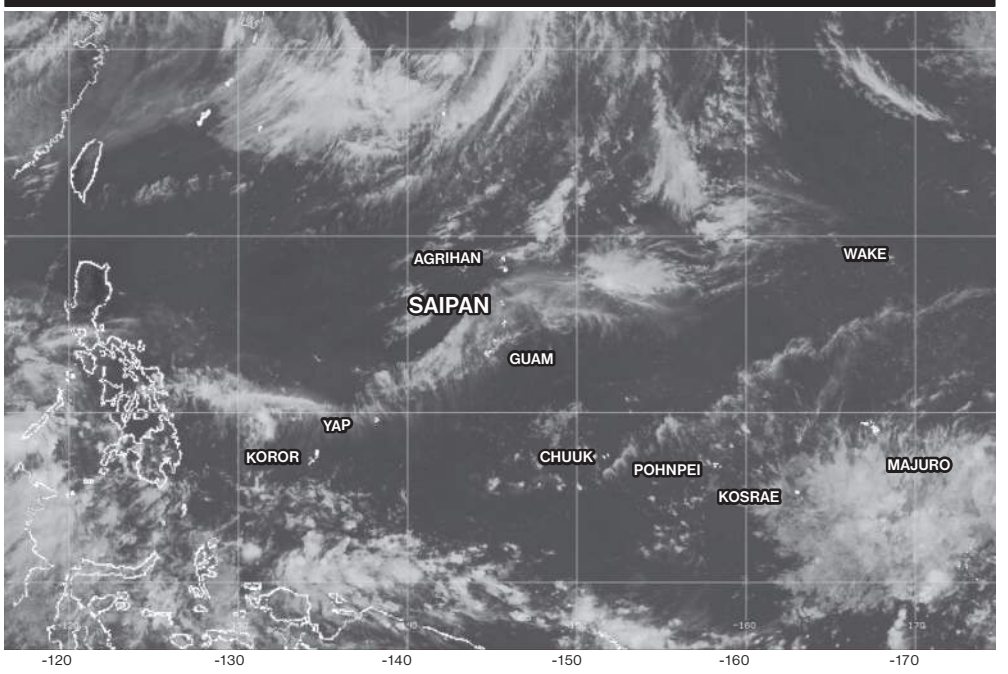
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 80º	87º / 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:21 AM	8:49 PM
Thursday	-	8:27 AM	9:40 PM
Friday	-	9:30 AM	10:26 PM
Saturday	-	10:29 AM	11:08 PM
Sunday	-	11:25 AM	11:47 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms/Wind	56° / 49°
Beijing	Sunny	102° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	89° / 83°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	71° / 53°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 49°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 72°
Osaka	Rain	84° / 76°
Paris	Light Rain	76° / 56°
Busan	Rain	82° / 70°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 67°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	65° / 54°
Seoul	Light Rain	84° / 70°
Tokyo	Cloudy	85° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 71°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:01 AM	High Tide	1.57
7:40 AM	Low Tide	2.23
3:18 PM	High Tide	-0.48
10:37 PM	Low Tide	2.19

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174 via Guam	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1 July 19	Daily up to
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1 Aug 20	6, 4 July 23 to
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Celebrate Aqua's 34th anniversary with special lunch buffet

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Feast at Aqua Resort Club Saipan and take a dip in their pool to cool off after a whole day's celebration of independence day as they celebrate its 34th Anniversary today, July 5, with a special lunch buffet.

From 11:30am to 2pm, enjoy international and local favorites including lechon de leche (whole roast pig), live pizza station, barbecue ribs, fried chicken, bibimbap station, japchae, and more Korean specialty dishes, assorted tempura, curry, and other Japanese favorites, decadent assorted desserts, and special anniversary cake.

It's $27 for adults which includes a pool pass and $13.50 for children. For local discount, present your valid local CNMI/Guam ID.

If you're looking for dessert to share or indulge for just yourself, ARC is also offering a special anniversary matcha opera cake for $50.

You'll love every layer of the green tea sponge cake, rich chocolate ganache, and creamy matcha buttercream on a 7-inch square cake topped with a 4-inch square cake that is available for the whole month of July.

ARC is your one-stop hotel for the whole month of July as they celebrate its 34 years of service in Saipan.

The fun doesn't end there as in celebration of their 34th anniversary, you could be the lucky winner of a staycation at their hotel by posting a photo of your favorite and memorable experience at the hotel and tag @aquaresortclubsaipan and one person who was with you at the hotel.

Their themed lunch buffet is still ongoing at Costa Breakfast Terrace from July 10 to 14 from 7am to 10am.

Other activities at the hotel that you could check out this summer are Yoga with Kerri at the beach front on July 9 and July 17, along with aqua Zumba on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

"Thank you to the Saipan community for your continued support. We are happy to celebrate 34 years with you and look forward to serving you for many more!" said ARC general manager Sachiko Gerrard.

ARC first opened its doors to the public on July 5, 1989 and is the premier beachfront getaway for both tourists and local residents looking for a luxurious and relaxing setting to dine, rest, and play.

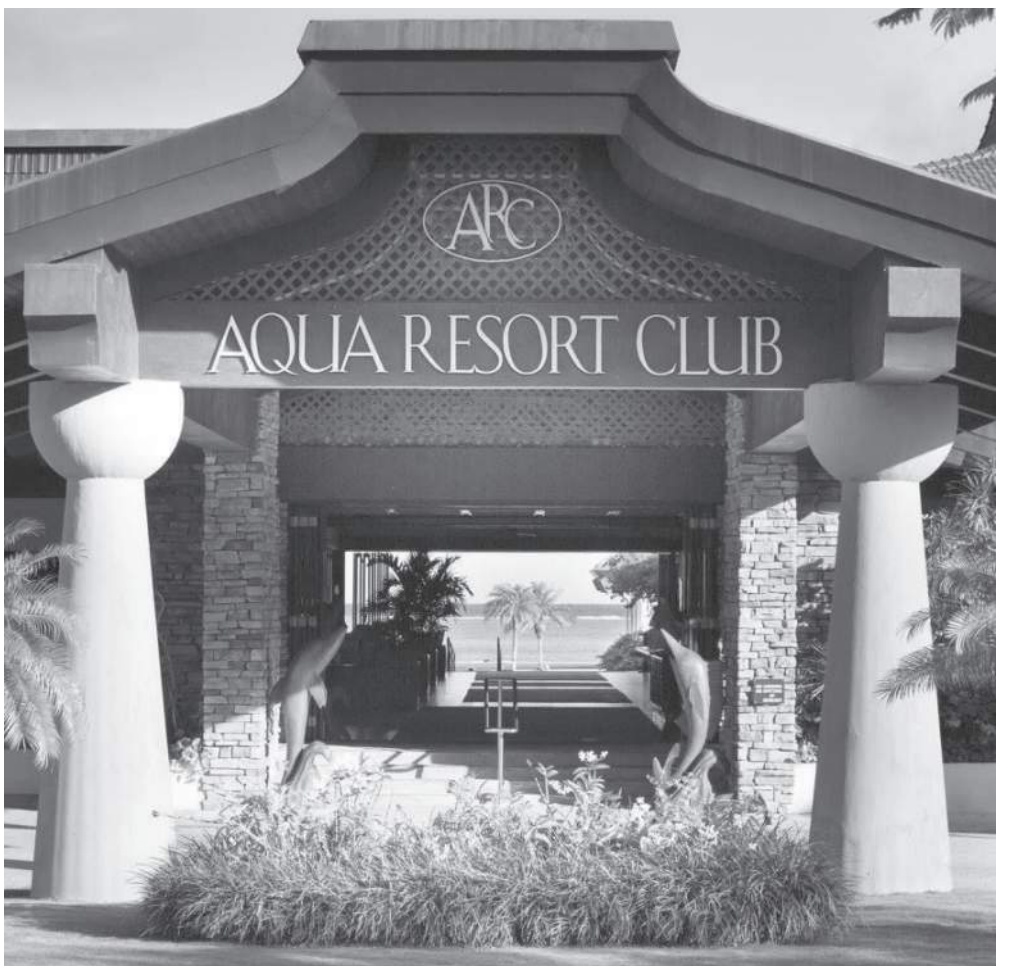
For more information, call (670) 322-1234 or visit www.aquaresortsaipan.com.

LEIGH GASES

Take a dip in the pool after a mighty feast in celebration of Aqua Resort Club's 34th anniversary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Feast on the wide variety of local and international delicacies in celebration of Aqua Resort Club's 34th anniversary at the Costa Terrace Restaurant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aqua Resort Club opened its doors to the public 34 years ago on July 5, 1989. Celebrate with a special lunch feast today and all come back for the whole month of July with activities by the pool and the beach.

UN council to hold 1st meeting on potential threats of AI to global peace

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council will hold a first-ever meeting on the potential threats of artificial intelligence to international peace and security, organized by the United Kingdom which sees tremendous potential but also major risks about AI's possible use for example in autonomous weapons or in control of nuclear weapons.

UK Ambassador Barbara Woodward on Monday announced the July 18 meeting as the centerpiece of its presidency of the council this month. It will include briefings by international AI experts and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who last month called the alarm bells over the most advanced form of AI "deafening," and loudest from its developers.

"These scientists and experts have called on the world to act, declaring AI an existential threat to humanity on a par with the risk of nuclear war," the U.N. chief said.

Guterres announced plans to appoint an advisory board on artificial intelligence in September to prepare initiatives that the U.N. can take. He also said he would react favorably to a new U.N. agency on AI and suggested as a model the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is knowledge-based and has some regulatory powers.

Woodward said the UK wants to encourage "a multilateral approach to managing both the huge opportunities and the risks that artificial intelligence holds for all of us," stressing that "this is going to take a global effort."

She stressed that the benefits side is huge, citing AI's potential to help U.N. development programs, improve humanitarian aid operations, assist peacekeeping operations and support conflict prevention, including by collecting and analyzing data. "It could potentially help us close the gap between developing countries and developed countries," she added.

But the risk side raises serious security question that must also be addressed, Woodward said.

Europe has led the world in efforts to regulate artificial intelligence, which gained urgency with the rise of a new breed of artificial intelligence that gives AI chatbots like ChatGPT the power to generate text, images, video and audio that resemble human work. On June 14, EU lawmakers signed off on the world's first set of comprehensive rules for artificial intelligence, clearing a key hurdle as authorities across the globe race to rein in AI.

In May, the head of the artificial intelligence company that makes ChatGPT told a U.S. Senate hearing that government intervention will be critical to mitigating the risks of increasingly powerful AI systems, saying as this technology advances people are concerned about how it could change their lives, and "we are too."

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman proposed the formation of a U.S. or global agency that would license the most powerful AI systems and have the authority to "take that license away and ensure compliance with safety standards."

Woodward said the Security Council meeting, to be chaired by UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, will provide an opportunity to listen to expert views on AI, which is a very new technology that is developing very fast, and start a discussion among the 15 council members on its implications.

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced that the UK will host a summit on AI later this year, "where we'll be able to have a truly global multilateral discussion," Woodward said.

EU climate chief concerned over expansion of China coal industry

BEIJING (AP)—The European Union's climate chief on Monday expressed concern over the expansion of China's coal industry, with the building of new coal-fired plants.

At a conference in Beijing, Frans Timmermans said that while China is forging ahead with plans to expand its use of renewable resources such as wind and solar energy, the country has also been constructing an ever-growing number of coal-fired plants in the past few years.

"And that seems to be in a contradiction and it is in contradiction," said Timmermans. "But at the same time, I do understand the anxiety caused by potential blackouts."

China is the world's biggest and fastest-growing producer of renewable energy. It aims to turn one-third of its total power supply renewable by 2025.

As more cities are experiencing sweltering temperatures this summer, the country may face power shortages and challenges to electricity grids, similar to what happened last year. At the same time, water shortages have led to reductions in hydropower generation.

China's climate envoy Xie Zhenhua attended the conference and presented a commemorative plate to Timmermans, who is on a two-day visit to China for the EU-China High-level Environment and Climate Dialogue.

Official plans called for boosting coal production capacity by 300 million tons last year, at least the third consecutive year of growth.

Although China is one of the biggest investors in wind and solar, anxious leaders called for more coal-fired power after economic growth plunged and shortages caused blackouts and factory shutdowns. Russia's attack on Ukraine added to the anxiety that foreign oil and coal supplies might be disrupted.

China is the top producer and consumer of coal. Global trends hinge on what Beijing does.

The Communist Party has rejected binding emissions commitments, citing its economic development needs. Beijing has avoided joining governments that promised to phase out the use of coal-fired power.

China has said carbon emissions will peak by 2030 and the country will become carbon neutral by 2060 by planting trees and through other offsets.

Some European and American officials have called on China to adopt more ambitious targets. China accounts for 26.1% of global emissions, more than double the U.S. share of 12.8%.

Nation

The American flag wasn't always revered as it is today

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—In the bedroom of the Betsy Ross House, a reconstruction of where the upholsterer worked on her most famous commission, a long flag with a circle of 13 stars hangs over a Chippendale side chair and extends across the floor. Over the weeks in 1776 needed to complete the project, Ross would have likely knelt on the flag, stood on it and treated it more like an everyday banner—not with the kind of reverence we'd expect today.

"She would not have worried about it touching the floor or violating any codes," says Lisa Moulder, director of the Ross House. "The flag did not have any kind of special symbolism."

Flags proliferate every July 4. But unlike the right to assemble or trial by jury, their role was not prescribed by the founders. They would have been rare during early Independence Day celebrations. Only in the mid-19th century does the U.S. flag become a permanent fixture at the White House, scholars believe; only in the mid-20th century was a federal code established for how it should be handled and displayed; only in the 1960s did Congress pass a law making it illegal to "knowingly" cast "contempt" on the flag.

The flag's evolution into sacred national symbol, and the ongoing debates around it that inspire so much passion and anger, reflect the current events of a given moment and the country's transformation from a loose confederation of states into a global superpower.

AP

Tang De Wong, lower left, and other members of the Chinese Benevolent Association march in an Independence Day parade in Philadelphia, July 4, 2008.

'AN AFTERTHOUGHT'

"The flag was really an afterthought," says Scot Guenter, author of "The American Flag, 1777-1924" and a professor emeritus of American Studies at San Jose State University. In the beginning, Guenter says, the Continental Congress was more concerned about developing a "Great Seal" because it was needed for papers it would issue.

Congress passed its first flag act on June 14, 1777: "Resolved, that the Flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." But the flag is otherwise peripheral to the country's beginnings.

A spokesman for Independence Hall in Philadelphia says no records exist of a U.S. flag being present for the signing of the Constitution in 1787, or any indications that a national flag would have flown during the following decade at what is now called Congress Hall — a decade when Philadelphia was the country's capital. Researchers at George Washington's home have no evidence that the flag was displayed there in his lifetime. (Volunteers there now regularly raise and lower U.S. flags, which are sold at the gift shop as having "flown over Mount Vernon").

According to the White House Historical Association, no precise date exists for when the flag first had a permanent home at the presidential residence. Researchers at the historical association say the best guess is June 29, 1861, early in the Civil War, when President Lincoln dedicated a flagpole on the South Grounds.

The Civil War, followed by the country's centennial in 1876, helped mythologize the flag. Americans were in the mood for a good story, and William J. Canby, grandson of Betsy Ross, had one. In a speech given to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Canby drew upon family memories in narrating the quiet, heroic tale of Betsy Ross, who had died little known beyond her immediate community.

"As an example of industry, energy and perseverance, and of humble reliance upon providence, though all the trials, which were not few, of her eventful life, the name of Elizabeth Claypoole (her married name at the time of her death) is worthy of being placed on record for the benefit of those who should be similarly circumstanced," Canby stated.

LEGEND OUTWEIGHS FACT

The Ross House bills itself as "the birthplace of the American Flag," but its origins are uncertain. We have no definitive account. Many credit Francis Hopkinson, a congressman from New Jersey, but others, including Ross, may have added details—and, unlike the Declaration of Independence, we have no original artifact. Whether Ross or another produced the first one, its ultimate destination is unknown.

"We think it would have ended up on a ship mast, to signify that it was an American ship," Moulder says.

Ross' place in history also remains in question, even among government institutions. An essay entitled "The Legend of Betsy Ross," on the website for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, says her tale is "shrouded in as much legend as fact," with no substantial evidence of her involvement. Says the museum: "While it makes for a nice story, sadly, it is most likely false."

Ross, who died in 1836, left behind no diary or contemporary accounts of her whereabouts, officials at the Ross House acknowledge. But she was very much a real person who produced various flags before and after the alleged time she was approached by a commission that included George Washington and asked to sew a flag to represent the new country. Officials at the Ross house have no direct proof of Washington contacting Ross in 1776, but they note that a ledger unearthed in 2015 revealed Washington had engaged in business two years earlier with Ross and her husband and fellow upholster, John Ross.

"We know that Washington wanted the Rosses to make bedrooms curtains for his home in Mount Vernon," Moulder says. "And curtains are the kind of job that Betsy would have taken on."

As the country grew more nationalized and nationalistic, Ross was added to the early pantheon and the flag's presence expanded like so much territory across the continent—into state ceremonies and buildings, sporting events, schools and private homes.

THE FLAG TAKES CENTER STAGE

In the midst of fierce labor battles and rising fears of immigration, the minister Francis Bellamy composed the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892. It was tied to the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landing but also, as historian Richard White has written, addressed "a time of intense social conflict in an increasingly diverse nation" and was intended "as a hopeful affirmation of America's future."

Throughout the 20th century, regulations were proposed and enacted. The first national flag code was drafted in 1923 and signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, with recommendations on everything from how to salute the flag to how to carry it. In the mid-1950s, President Dwight Eisenhower endorsed legislation adding "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance, a Cold War action with origins 20 years earlier.

"In the 1930s, you had conservatives arguing that the New Deal represented slavery and that the counterpoint was freedom under God," says Kevin M. Kruse, a professor of history at Princeton University whose books include "One Nation Under God," published in 2015. "So there was a corporate-fueled drive against the regulatory state and it takes on religious tones. In the 1950s, that gets appropriated by the anti-communists."

Burning American flags dates back at least to the Civil War. But only in July 1968, in response to Vietnam War protesters, did Congress pass legislation making it illegal (the Supreme Court overturned the ban in 1989) and adding other restrictions against "publicly mutilating" the flag. Three months later, the radical activist Abbie Hoffman was arrested for wearing a Stars and Stripes shirt, charges later dropped on appeal.

"He showed up in the shirt for a meeting of the House Committee on Un-American Activities," says Mark Kurlansky, author of "1968: The Year That Rocked the World," a social history. "He just thought it would be funny."

Last month, the Biden administration hosted a Pride Day gathering on the White House South Lawn and hung a Pride Progress flag between U.S. flags on the Truman balcony. Rep. Mike Collins, a Georgia Republican, denounced the prominence of an "alphabet cult battle flag." Other Republicans alleged that Biden officials had broken federal regulations, which call for the American flag to be "at the center and at the highest point" when grouped with other flags. Defenders of Biden noted that a U.S. flag was flying above from atop the White House.

"The flag is so important because it helps define what we believe in. You have Democrats and Republicans trying to attach meaning to it," Guenter says. "The flag can intersect with issues of gender and race and sexuality. There's so much there to think about, and it reveals so much about who we are."

Police: Gunman kills 4 people in Philadelphia mass shooting

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A gunman wearing a bulletproof vest opened fire on the streets of Philadelphia on Monday night, killing four people and wounding two boys in the latest outbreak of gun violence in the United States, police said. The victims were apparently random, with no connection immediately known between them and the shooter.

The shootings took place over several city blocks in the southwestern neighborhood of Kingsessing. Responding officers chased the suspect as he continued to fire, and he was arrested in an alley after surrendering, Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said at a news conference.

"At this point all we know is that this person decided to leave their home and target individuals," Outlaw said.

He had a bulletproof vest, an "AR-type rifle," multiple magazines, a handgun and a police scanner, she said.

Officers were flagged down at about 8:30 p.m., and multiple calls of shots fired came in from Kingsessing. Police found some gunshot victims, and as they were attending to them, they heard more gunfire, Outlaw said.

The suspected shooter was identified as a 40-year-old man. A second person was also taken into custody who may have returned fire at the suspect, but police did not know whether there was a connection between the two people, Outlaw said.

The chief described the scene as covering an area of two by four blocks and said dozens of shell casings were found.

"You can see there are several scenes out here," Outlaw said. "We're canvassing the area to get as much as we can, to identify witnesses, to identify where cameras are located and to do everything to figure out the why," Outlaw said.

Three of the dead ranged in age from 20 to 59, while the fourth, who had not yet been identified, was estimated to be between 16 and 21. All were male. The two hospitalized victims are boys, ages 2 and 13. They were in stable condition, Outlaw said.

The shooting occurred a day after gunfire erupted at a holiday weekend block party in Baltimore, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the southwest, killing two people and wounding 28 others. The wounded in that shooting ranged in age from 13 to 32, with more than half of them minors, according to officials.

Asia

US recommends Americans reconsider traveling to China

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. recommended Americans reconsider traveling to China because of arbitrary law enforcement and exit bans and the risk of wrongful detentions.

No specific cases were cited, but the advisory came after a 78-year-old U.S. citizen was sentenced to life in prison on spying charges in May.

It also followed the passage last week of a sweeping Foreign Relations Law that threatens countermeasures against those seen as harming China's interests.

China also recently passed a broadly written counterespionage law that has sent a chill through the foreign business community, with offices being raided, as well as a law to sanction foreign critics.

"The People's Republic of China (PRC) government arbitrarily enforces local laws, including issuing exit bans on U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries, without fair and transparent process under the law," the U.S. advisory said.

"U.S. citizens traveling or residing in the PRC may be detained without access to U.S. consular services or information about their alleged crime," it warned.

The advisory also said that Chinese authorities "appear to have broad discretion to deem a wide range of documents, data, statistics, or materials as state secrets and to detain and prosecute foreign nationals for alleged espionage."

It listed a wide range of potential offenses from taking part in demonstrations to sending electronic messages critical of Chinese policies or even simply conducting research into areas deemed sensitive.

Exit bans could be used to compel individuals to participate in Chinese government investigations, pressure family members to return from abroad, resolve civil disputes in favor of Chinese citizens and "gain bargaining leverage over foreign governments," the advisory said.

Similar advisories were issued for the semi-autonomous Chinese regions of Hong Kong and Macao. They were dated Friday and emailed to journalists on Monday.

The U.S. had issued similar advisories to its citizens in the past, but those in recent years had mainly warned of the dangers of being caught in strict and lengthy lockdowns while China closed its borders for three years under its draconian "zero-COVID" policy.

China generally responds angrily to what it considers U.S. efforts to impugn its authoritarian Communist Party-led system. It has issued its own travel advisories concerning the U.S., warning of the dangers of crime, anti-Asian discrimination and the high cost of emergency medical assistance.

China had no immediate response to the travel advisory on Monday.

Details of the accusations against the accused spy John Shing-Wan Leung are not available, given China's authoritarian political system and the ruling Communist Party's absolute control over legal matters. Leung, who also holds permanent residency in Hong Kong, was detained in the southeastern city of Suzhou on April 15, 2021 — a time when China had closed its borders and tightly restricted movement of people domestically to control the spread of COVID-19.

The warnings come as U.S.-China relations are at their lowest in years, over trade, technology, Taiwan and human rights, although the sides are taking some steps to improve the situation. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a long-delayed visit to Beijing last week and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is making a much-anticipated trip to Beijing this week. China also recently appointed a new ambassador to Washington, who presented his credentials in a meeting with President Joe Biden at the White House.

IAEA chief to give final report on release of Fukushima wastewater

TOKYO (AP)—The head of the U.N. nuclear agency is in Japan to meet with government leaders Tuesday and to see final preparations for the release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant, on a visit Japan hopes will give credibility to the contentious plan.

International Atomic Energy Agency head Rafael Mariano Grossi will meet with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida later Tuesday to submit IAEA's final report on the water release. All of IAEA's interim evaluations have been positive and the final report is expected to say that the water sampling, testing and monitoring plans involved in the release are adequate and fulfill international requirements.

The treated radioactive water, stored in about 1,000 tanks that are nearing their 1.37 million ton capacity, must be removed to prevent accidental leaks and to make room for the plant's decommissioning.

Japanese regulators finished their final safety inspection of the equipment last Friday and the plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings is expected to receive a permit for discharging the water in about a week. It could do so anytime afterward, though the start date is still undecided amid concerns and protests.

South Korea, China and some Pacific Island nations oppose the water release because of safety concerns and political reasons. Local fishing groups are worried their reputation will be damaged even if their catch is uncontaminated, and others like local water and beach businesses and tourism outfits are concerned.

Japan has sought support from the IAEA to gain credibility for the plan and assurances that its safety measures meet international standards. The IAEA has made several trips to Japan since early 2022 but acknowledges it can't made decisions for the Japanese government, including stopping the wastewater release.

Grossi on Tuesday will also meet with heads of Japanese ministries and nuclear agency relevant to the water release. He later will visit the Fukushima plant, which was damaged by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011, during his four-day visit.

To ease concerns overseas, Grossi is expected to visit South Korea, New Zealand and the Cook Islands after his visit to Japan.

Japan's government and TEPCO say the treated but still slightly radioactive water will be diluted to levels safer than international standards and will be released gradually into the ocean over decades, making it harmless to people and marine life.

World

NATO readies plans to defend vs bruised but unbowed Russia

BRUSSELS (AP)—Russia's armed forces are bruised but by no means beaten in the war in Ukraine, a top NATO military officer said Monday, as he laid out the biggest revamp to the organization's military plans since the Cold War should Moscow dare to widen the conflict.

Servicemen of the United States 101 Airborne Division run during an exercise at the Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, near the Black Sea port of Constanta, Romania, Friday, March 31, 2023.

"They might not be 11 feet tall, but they are certainly not 2 feet tall," the Chair of the NATO Military Committee, Admiral Rob Bauer, told reporters. "So, we should never underestimate the Russians and their ability to bounce back."

U.S. President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts are set to endorse a major shakeup of the alliance's planning system at a summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius next week.

NATO, as an organization, does not provide weapons or ammunition to Ukraine. It's sought to avoid being dragged into a wider war with nuclear-armed Russia. At the same time, it is massively reinforcing the security of member countries near Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Around 40,000 troops are on standby from Estonia in the north down to Romania on the Black Sea. About 100 aircraft take to the skies in that territory each day, and a total of 27 warships are operating in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas. Those numbers are set to rise.

Under its new plans, NATO aims to have up to 300,000 troops ready to move to its eastern flank within 30 days. The plans divide its territory into three zones – the high north and Atlantic area, a zone north of the Alps, and another in southern Europe.

Bauer said that NATO's new planning is based on the strength of the Russian army before President Vladimir Putin launched the war on Ukraine almost 17 months ago. He said the war has depleted Russia's army, but not its navy or air force.

Of Russia's ground forces, around "94% is now engaged in the war in Ukraine," Bauer said.

"What we see in general is that the Russians are careful around NATO. They are not for seeking a conflict with NATO. I think that is a sign that they are very, very busy," he said. "In the land domain, I don't think they have a lot of forces available to do anything to anyone else."

"But we are convinced that the Russians are going to reconstitute," he said. "We will continue to look at them as a serious threat, in the maritime, and in the air especially, and in space, they are still very, very, capable, let alone of course in nuclear."

Israel launches most intense military operation in West Bank in years

JENIN, West Bank (AP)—Israel on Monday launched its most intense military operation in the occupied West Bank in nearly two decades, carrying out a series of drone strikes and sending hundreds of troops on an open-ended mission into a militant stronghold. At least eight Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded.

The crackdown was reminiscent of Israeli military tactics during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s and came at a time of growing domestic pressure for a tough response to recent attacks on Israeli settlers, including a shooting last month that killed four Israelis.

The operation took place in the Jenin refugee camp — an area in the northern West Bank that has long been known as a bastion of militants. The fighting, which began shortly after midnight, continued past nightfall.

Throughout the day, black smoke rose from the crowded streets of the camp, a densely populated neighborhood that is home to some 14,000 people, while exchanges of fire rang out and drones could be heard buzzing overhead. Military bulldozers plowed through narrow streets, damaging buildings as they cleared the way for Israeli forces.

"There are bulldozers destroying the streets, snipers are inside and on roofs of houses, drones are hitting houses and Palestinians are killed in the streets," said Jamal Huweil, a political activist in the camp, predicting the operation would fail.

The military blocked traffic in and out of Jenin, and the city resembled a ghost town. Streets were empty as armored Israeli vehicles patrolled. Piles of burning tires and garbage containers littered traffic circles. Power and water supplies were knocked out in the camp.

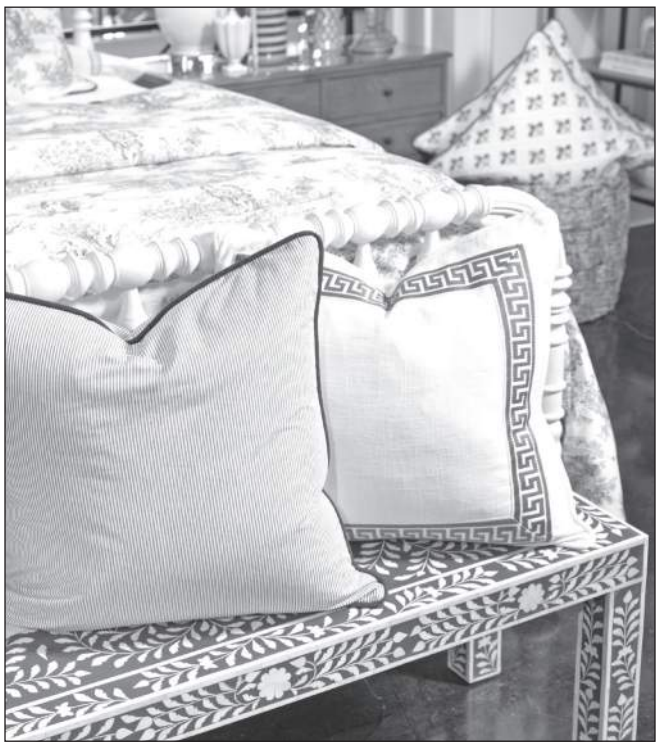
Palestinian youths occasionally threw stones at army vehicles before darting away.

With the sound of shooting and explosions in the background, at least 10 ambulances rushed to the overwhelmed local hospital as relatives checked to see if loved ones were inside. One ambulance arrived with a bullet hole in front.

The Palestinians and three Arab countries with normalized ties with Israel – Jordan, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates – condemned the incursion, as did the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Late Monday, the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank held an emergency meeting and said it was halting its already limited contacts with Israel. Leaders said a freeze on security coordination would remain in place, and they vowed to step up activity against Israel in the United Nations and international bodies. They also planned to minimize contacts with the United States.

Good Housekeeping



PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

Box trim in a Greek key design is added to the face of the pillow on the right for a polished finished product.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

Many pillow trim options working together create an elevated look to this designer bedding set.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

A stylish bedroom in Nell Hill's designer Anne's house features lots of gorgeous pillows.

The art of the pillow trim

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

I am constantly enchanted by the intricate details that can transform a simple pillow into a work of art. One aspect of the process that never fails to captivate me is pillow trim.

When it comes to creating custom pillows, the options for pillow trim are as diverse as they are captivating. One popular choice is tape trim, which offers a clean and tailored look with straight lines and defined edges. Another trim making a comeback is rickrack, featuring squiggle design that adds a playful touch. By using oversized rickrack, you can even create a charming scalloped edge.

Fringe is a broader category of trim, offering various styles and sizes. Brush fringe, for instance, adds a soft and textured look with feathery strands. Boullion fringe, on the other hand, consists of twisted ropes that are often seen around the base of upholstery. It can create a delightful mini skirt effect, but it's important to consider the flooring type, as it may affect the length that can be used.

Lip cord is a tiny cording that creates a delicate and refined accent. Regular cord trim, on the other hand, is a trim option that provides a thicker and more substantial appearance.

Poms and tassels offer playful options for adding texture and charm. You can choose individual tassels to be inserted into corners, or opt for tassel trim for a different application around the entire pillow. Ruffles are another trim option, adding a touch of femininity and elegance. Looking for something even more unique? Bauble trim, with its little beads, adds a delightful and eye-catching element to your pillows—they dance as you move your pillows around!

A solid fabric pillow can be elevated by adding a tape trim a few inches in around the edges. This simple addition gives the pillow a touch of sophistication and visual interest. The best part is you can achieve this stylish upgrade affordably by selecting a tape trim at a great price point. Whether you opt for a contrasting color or a complementary tone, the box trim brings a fresh dynamic to the pillow, transforming it into a statement piece that catches the eye.

Another captivating idea is to incorporate racing stripes into your design. By adding two stripes down either side of the pillow, you can create a dynamic and preppy look that instantly grabs attention. This technique is particularly effective for lumbars, as the stripes create an elongating effect. Opt for bold and contrasting colors to make a statement, or choose more subtle variations for a sophisticated touch.

Another option is to use a single stripe down the center, especially when working with a thick tape trim. This sleek and streamlined approach adds a modern and contemporary flair to your pillows.

Pillow trim is the perfect finishing touch that elevates a simple pillow into a stunning decorative accent. Whether you prefer the elegance of fringe, the playfulness of pompoms or the refined charm of lip cord, there is a trim that will speak to your unique sense of style. So let your imagination run wild and explore the possibilities to add a perfect touch of personality and flair to your living spaces.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

This front pillow features a single racing stripe in a bold tape trim option.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

This blue and green pillow features a double trim of edging and cording.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

Bauble trim dazzles in this blue and green new traditional bed pillow.

PROVIDED PHOTO/TNS

Pillows can feature contrasting trim or trim that blends; it's all about finding the right aesthetic for you.

Life & Style

Award-winning writer dies in Russian missile attack

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Award-winning Ukrainian writer Victoria Amelina was among those killed by a deadly Russian missile attack on a popular restaurant frequented by journalists and aid workers in eastern Ukraine, PEN America said.

Amelina, 37, who had turned her attention from literature to document Russian war crimes after the invasion, died from her injuries after the June 27 strike in the city of Kramatorsk, the literature and human rights organization said Sunday in a statement.

Ukraine's Culture Minister Oleksandr Tkachenko expressed condolences to Amelina's family, adding that Russia bears the responsibility. "For every crime on our soil, for every interrupted life and unspoken word, the terrorist must bear the harshest punishment," he said.

Friends, colleagues and admirers of Amelina mourned her, with many saying hers was a life full of potential that was tragically cut short. "So many books unwritten, stories untold, days unlived," tweeted journalist Olga Tokariuk, a friend of Amelina's.

"Victoria was documenting war crimes perpetrated by the Russians. She was killed in yet another such war crime. We bear witness to her death and that of thousands killed in Ukraine," tweeted historian Olesya Khromeychuk.

At least 11 others were killed and 61 were wounded in the attack around dinnertime, when the restaurant was usually busy. Ukrainian authorities arrested a man a day later, accusing him of helping Russia direct the strike.

The attack and others across Ukraine that day suggested the Kremlin is not easing its bombardment of the country, despite political and military turmoil at home after a short-lived armed uprising in Russia on June 24.

PEN Ukraine announced Amelina's death after her family was informed of it. Amelina was in Kramatorsk with a delegation of Colombian writers and journalists. She had been documenting Russian war crimes with the human rights organization Truth Hounds.

Amelina

"Victoria Amelina was a celebrated Ukrainian author who turned her distinct and powerful voice to investigate and expose war crimes after the full scale military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022," said Polina Sadovskaya, Eurasia director at PEN America. "She brought a literary sensibility to her work and her elegant prose described, with forensic precision, the devastating impact of these human rights violations on the lives of Ukrainians."

Amelina was born Jan. 1, 1986, in Lviv. In 2014 she published her first novel, "The November Syndrome, or Homo Compatiens," which was shortlisted for the Ukrainian Valeriy Shevchuk Prize.

She went on to write two award-winning children's books, "Somebody, or Waterheart" and another novel, "Storie-e-es of Eka the Excavator." In 2017, her novel, "Dom's Dream Kingdom," received national and international accolades—including the UNESCO City of Literature Prize and the European Union Prize for Literature.

A popular young writer, her fiction and essays have been translated into many languages, including English, Polish, Italian, German, Croatian, Dutch, Czech, and Hungarian.

In 2021, she founded the New York Literature Festival, which takes place in a small town called New York in the Donetsk region of Ukraine.

Since the start of the invasion, Amelina devoted herself to documenting Russian war crimes in eastern Ukraine, PEN America said. In Kapytolivka near Izium, she discovered the diary of Volodymyr Vakulenko, a Ukrainian writer killed by the Russians.

In a powerful essay, Amelina described the plight of Soviet era conformists caught in the crossfire of the 2014 Russian invasion by focusing on the sad tale of Hanna, an elderly woman evacuated from the Donbas to the relative security of western Ukraine. Until her death Hanna expresses her desire to go back home, even after it is explained to her that there is a Russian tank possibly parked in her garden.

"I did what I could: I'm a writer, and writing the truth is perhaps my best way of defending Hanna's garden. I could not protect anyone from the Russian artillery, so I tried to take up arms against their lies," Amelina wrote.

She also began writing her first work of English nonfiction shortly before her death. In "War and Justice Diary: Looking at Women Looking at War," Amelina recounts stories of Ukrainian women collecting evidence of Russian war crimes. It is expected to be published soon, according to PEN Ukraine.

Rose Leslie and Kit Harington welcome their second child, a daughter

LONDON (AP)—Actors Rose Leslie and Kit Harington have welcomed their second child.

A publicist for Harington confirmed Monday that the couple, who famously met on the set of "Game of Thrones" and are now both 36, have added a daughter to their family. Further details weren't immediately available.

In early 2021, the pair confirmed the birth of a son.

Harington and Leslie's relationship began in 2011 on the set of the HBO megahit series, on which they played star-crossed lovers Jon Snow—a brother of the Night's Watch with kingdom-shattering secrets—and Ygritte, a rebel wildling. They married in 2018 at Leslie's ancestral castle in Scotland.

Since leaving "Game of Thrones" in 2014, Leslie has starred in the legal drama "The Good Fight," sci-fi romance series "The Time Traveler's Wife" and the Kenneth Branagh-directed Agatha Christie remake "Death on the Nile." Since "Game of Thrones" concluded in 2019, Harington has had roles in the anthology shows "Modern Love" and "Extrapolations" and in Marvel's "Eternals."

AP

Rose Leslie, left, and Kit Harington arrive at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Robert De Niro grandson dies at 19

NEW YORK (AP)—Leandro De Niro Rodriguez, a grandson of Robert De Niro, has died at 19.

His mother, Drena De Niro, announced the news Monday in an Instagram post.

"I don't know how to live without you but I'll try to go on and spread the love and light that you so made me feel in getting to be your mama," she wrote. "You were so deeply loved and appreciated and I wish that love alone could have saved you."

Drena De Niro shared Leandro with artist Carlos Mare, who posted black squares sans caption on his Instagram accounts.

"I'm deeply distressed by the passing of my beloved grandson Leo. We're greatly appreciative of the condolences from everyone. We ask that we please be given privacy to grieve our loss of Leo," Robert De Niro said in a statement.

Further details were not immediately available. Later Monday, De Niro's publicist shared another statement from Drena De Niro.

"It is with immeasurable shock and and sadness that we say goodbye to our beloved son Leo. We thank you for the outpouring of love and support and ask that we are given privacy at this time to process this inconsolable grief," she said in the statement.

In response to a request to confirm a TMZ report that Leandro was found in a New York apartment, New York City police wrote that "an 18-year-old male was found unconscious, unresponsive and was pronounced deceased by EMS on scene" at a Wall Street address that houses the Cipriani Club Residences. Leandro only recently turned 19, news outlets report.

The medical examiner's office will determine the cause of death.

Marriage of convenience has become inconvenient

DEAR ABBY: Eighteen years ago, I married a man so he could get health insurance and have back surgery. It was supposed to be short-lived. He fell in love with me and wouldn't leave.

He's put me through hell over the years. Stage 4 tongue cancer left him unable to work, which I didn't have an issue with. Then he started drinking and got a DUI. Because I was the sole provider, it cost me almost $10,000.

My husband is a complete SLOB and doesn't care. He has a severe sleep disorder he refuses to address. Most days, he drinks all night and sleeps until 2 or 3 in the afternoon. I finally moved out, but now he's pestering me about when I'll be back. What can I do?

TURNED THE PAGE IN ARIZONA

DEAR TURNED: Unless you want more of the same, DO NOT GO BACK. You have done enough of the heavy lifting. It's now time to concentrate on what is good for YOU and what will make YOU happy. Because you no longer want to live with this person, consult an attorney about how to extricate yourself from a dysfunctional relationship, which should have ended as soon as he healed from his back surgery.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 65-year-old female who has been divorced 15 years. I have no interest in dating. During the last couple of years, I have focused on my health, concentrating on diet and exercise, and I have lost 50 pounds.

Before I lost the weight, men seldom noticed me, which was fine with me. Lately, men have been looking at me, smiling and even flirting. Although this is a confidence booster, I don't want to lead anyone on.

I know it may seem weird, but I'm afraid if someone asks me out, my facial expression and response might not be cordial. I don't want to insult anyone. I believe if I memorize one or two polite, tactful responses I'll be ready for the moment. Can you suggest how to politely turn down a man who shows interest in me?

STILL NOT INTERESTED IN IOWA

DEAR STILL NOT INTERESTED: Did your divorce leave you so disillusioned that you're not even interested in a platonic male friendship? Although I think you will prevent yourself from having some rewarding relationships, a polite way to convey that you're not interested would be: "Thank you for the compliment, but I'm off the market."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I need an attitude adjustment. My sporty, outdoorsy, Type A daughter, who is in her 30s, dates men who are (typically) wussy, milquetoast, dead-fish handshake individuals. She's respectful toward them and doesn't bully them, nor does she mother them, try to change them to "improve" them.

How can I be less critical of her choices, and how do I respond tactfully when she asks me for my impressions of her boyfriends?

TRYING TO CHANGE

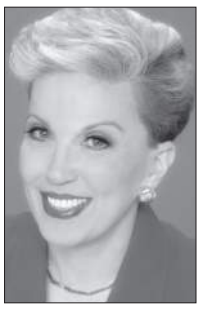
DEAR TRYING: Tell your daughter she doesn't need your endorsement, and that if any of her suitors make her happy, you are happy for her. Then bite your tongue.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

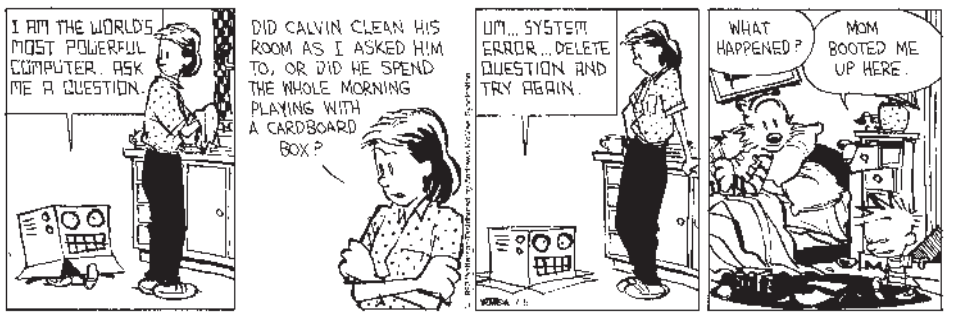


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

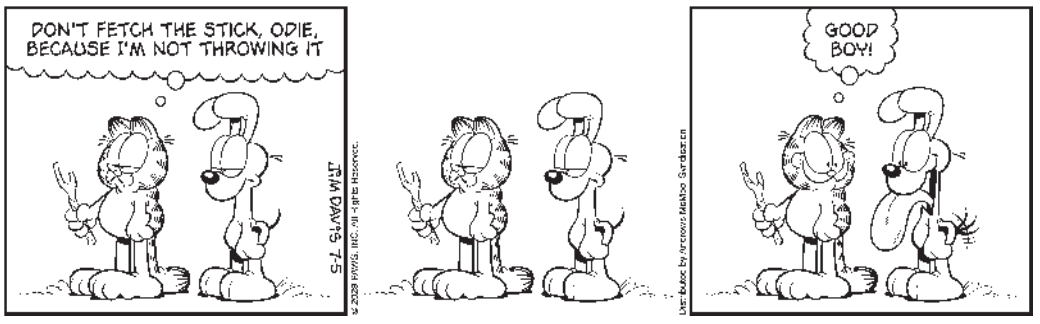
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I AM THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER. ASK ME A QUESTION.
DID CALVIN CLEAN HIS ROOM AS I ASKED HIM TO, OR DID HE SPEND THE WHOLE MORNING PLAYING WITH A CARDBOARD BOX?
UM... SYSTEM ERROR... DELETE QUESTION AND TRY AGAIN.
WHAT HAPPENED?
MOM BOOTED ME UP HERE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



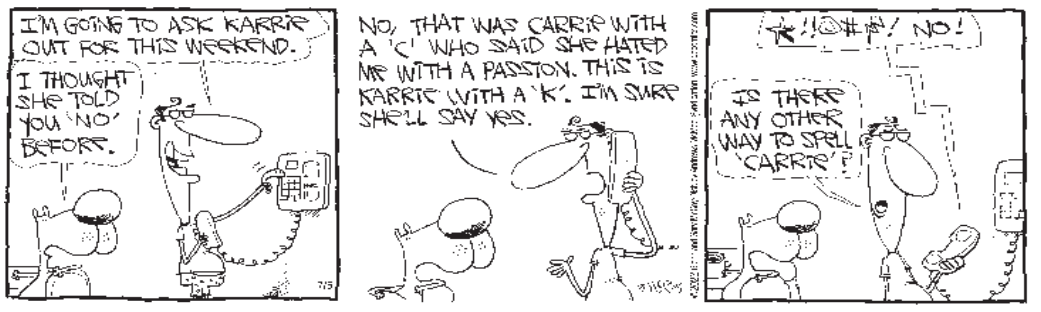
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU HAVE MORE LATE-NIGHT WRITING TO DO?
I DO, COACH.
THEN PUT IN THE EFFORT! LET ME SEE SOME CURLS!
THAT'S ONE! GIMME FIFTY!
SIP SIP SIP SIP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M GOING TO ASK KARRIE OUT FOR THIS WEEKEND.
I THOUGHT SHE TOLD YOU 'NO' BEFORE.
NO, THAT WAS CARRIE WITH A 'C' WHO SAID SHE HATED ME WITH A PASSION. THIS IS KARRIE WITH A 'K'. I'M SURE SHE'LL SAY YES.
*!@#$%! NO!
IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO SPELL 'CARRIE'?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

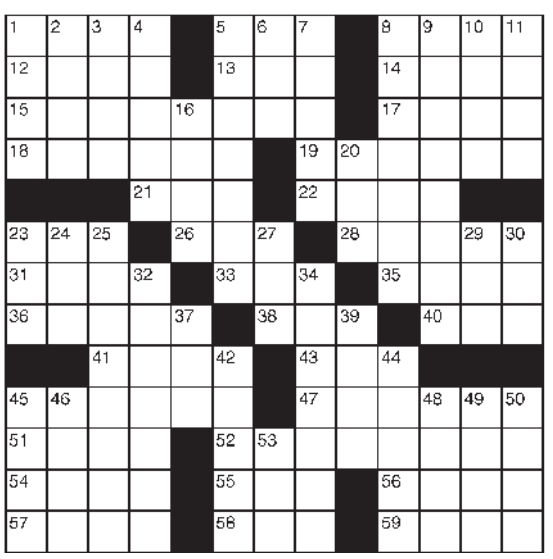
ACROSS
1 Diplomacy
5 Bikini top
8 Applications
12 Vogue rival
13 Verse by Pablo Neruda
14 Skater Lipinski
15 Regatta entry
17 Rembrandt works
18 Gulps down
19 Italian port city
21 Drunkard
22 Europe's neighbor
23 Vigor
26 Oscar winner Kingsley
28 Peddles
31 Turkish officials
33 TV pioneer
35 Hammer target
36 Rich cake
38 Sounds of woe
40 "Rah!"
41 Geometric calculation
43 Central point
45 Quit
47 Flinches, say
51 — impasse
52 Feature of a schooner
54 Advanced math
55 Aachen article
56 "Got it"
57 Morays
58 Young bloke
59 Hallmark offering

DOWN
1 Della's role on "Touched by an Angel"
2 "There oughta be —!"
3 152, in old Rome
4 Goes public
5 Rocket stage
6 Vitamin stat
7 Health insurance giant
8 Perfect
9 Leave on a catamaran
10 Writer Gardner
11 Lip
16 Sci-fi villain
20 Blond shade
23 Bit of butter
24 Conceit
25 Fly over a beach, say
27 Sgt., for one
29 Sportage maker
30 Devious
32 Orchestra section
34 "Atlas Shrugged" author
37 Brain scan (Abbr.)
39 Chop —
42 Photographer Adams
44 No-frills
45 Assess
46 To be, in Tours
48 Juan's home
49 Level
50 Coaster
53 Aunt, in Acapulco

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	U	M	O	■	B	F	F	■	F	I	O	W
A	R	I	D	■	R	C	E	■	I	C	W	A
F	I	R	F	W	O	O	D	■	R	A	I	D
E	S	E	■	A	N	T	■	G	E	N	E	S
■	■	■	F	I	X	■	W	F	R	■	■	■
T	R	A	I	T	■	S	H	O	O	F	L	Y
B	U	R	R	■	A	M	Y	■	A	I	O	F
A	N	G	E	L	O	U	■	S	T	U	B	S
■	■	■	W	O	K	■	G	A	S	■	■	■
A	L	L	O	Y	■	B	A	G	■	W	O	O
D	I	C	R	■	F	I	R	E	S	I	G	N
A	M	C	K	■	A	L	B	■	I	T	R	Y
M	O	P	S	■	T	K	O	■	C	H	E	X

Yesterday's answer 7-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Rapinoe, 38; Dave Haywood, 41; Edie Falco, 60; Huey Lewis, 73.

Happy Birthday: Don't take on too much. A minimalist attitude will prompt you to say no to those trying to separate you from your money or goals and replace them with something that benefits them, not you. A pragmatic approach to life, love, and happiness and a strong belief in yourself and your skills will carry you to a place that you find comfortable. Your numbers are 7, 13, 23, 29, 34, 45, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do something you enjoy. Take care of your health or physical needs. Make your goals to act and to finish what you start. Refuse to let anyone play games with you or challenge you to a debate or no-win situation. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* What others do will be a telltale sign of who they are and what they want. An unexpected change will leave you in a vulnerable position. Don't get involved in events or activities you can't afford. Say no to anyone asking for too much. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen, evaluate and fact-check before you make a move. Show some discipline; it will help you avoid ending up in a vulnerable position. Spend time nurturing and taking care of yourself. Trust your gut and focus on being your best. Avoid unnecessary expenses. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotional spending won't solve problems. Do your best to simplify your life and stick to people who offer encouragement and common sense. Experience is an excellent teacher. Learn your lessons and avoid making the same mistake twice. Change only what's necessary. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Simplify your life. Channel your energy into personal growth, growing your savings and maximizing how you can use your skills to reflect trends. It's up to you to build a strong presence among your peers and to exude confidence and leadership. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Communication, education and surrounding yourself with unique people will help you advance. Don't shy away from someone different than you; together, you can contribute to one another's success. If you mix business with pleasure, blossoming contacts will surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Offer a helping hand rather than a cash donation to a cause. Take a unique approach to work and money and how you invest your time, and you'll discover you can do and get a lot if you work hard. Cap your spending. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen, communicate and sort through any differences you have with a friend, relative or colleague. Take better care of your reputation and health. Overindulgence will take its toll on your bank account and your body. Shift your mindset to minimalism and a healthy lifestyle. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Save for what you want instead of going into debt. Peace of mind will impact your health and reputation. Be good to yourself and channel your energy into personal gain.✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discuss your thoughts and intentions before pulling out your credit card. Get input from loved ones before taking a potential risk with your cash or appearance. Don't let your emotions dominate your discipline. Say no to financial partnerships. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be observant and outsmart whoever tries to exploit you. A snap decision will lead to regret. Don't buy into the hype someone promotes; instead, focus on personal growth and making gains that you manifest yourself. Nurture meaningful relationships. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your money and possessions someplace safe. Investigate something interesting, and you'll discover how to use your attributes to gain ground personally. Learn all you can. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are opportunity-driven, generous and indulgent. You are imaginative and spontaneous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		4	7			9		
		6			5	8		
	1		9					
2			4			1	3	
		1	5		6	4	7	
4		9		3	7	5		
	2							5
9	7	5	6		3	2		
	4						9	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/5

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday's Answer

6	5	3	1	7	8	2	4	9
4	7	1	9	2	6	5	8	3
9	8	2	3	5	4	7	1	6
5	6	4	2	8	9	1	3	7
1	9	8	7	3	5	4	6	2
2	3	7	6	4	1	8	9	5
8	4	6	5	9	2	3	7	1
7	2	9	4	1	3	6	5	8
3	1	5	8	6	7	9	2	4

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Difficulty: ★★ 7/4

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HOSTING A MURDER MYSTERY PARTY **Solution: 5 letters**

L	E	T	T	E	R	E	L	T	U	B	O	O	K	M
A	C	L	G	H	M	M	T	E	R	C	E	S	E	A
W	O	A	D	U	E	U	I	T	R	A	P	S	Y	G
S	D	S	R	D	E	M	T	T	P	R	O	P	S	N
E	E	T	U	D	I	F	E	S	C	N	L	S	I	I
T	D	O	L	S	S	R	R	E	O	I	E	N	G	F
A	A	R	E	S	(E)	P	G	I	H	C	V	A	N	Y
G	R	Y	S	(T)	H	A	T	A	E	I	N	C	I	I
I	E	E	(O)	O	S	A	L	C	T	N	E	K	T	N
T	U	(N)	T	S	N	L	U	E	A	S	D	S	N	G
S	Q	O	E	I	O	L	O	C	K	N	B	S	I	G
E	S	M	G	W	P	R	I	S	O	N	D	Y	A	L
V	A	A	E	R	E	B	M	U	N	Y	A	L	P	A
N	M	E	I	M	O	O	R	E	P	A	C	S	E	S
I	N	T	E	R	V	I	E	W	L	A	I	C	O	S

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Book, Butler, Candles, Cards, Code, Costume, Culprit, Envelope, Escape Room, Friends, Gatsby, Halloween, Imagination, Interview, Investigate, Invite, Keys, Laws, Letter, Lock, Magnifying Glass, Masquerade, Message, Money, Note, Number, Painting, Photos, Play, Prison, Props, Riddle, Rules, Secret, Snacks, Social, Story, Theme, Traps, Victim

Yesterday's Answer: Knight

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Harris homers twice as All-Star-studded Braves win 9th straight over Guardians

CLEVELAND (AP)—At the moment, there's no team in the same league as these Atlanta Braves.

They're in a class by themselves—from top to bottom.

"Dangerous team," said Guardians manager Terry Francona.

Michael Harris II, Atlanta's No. 9 hitter, homered twice and Bryce Elder, one of the club's eight All-Stars, pitched into the seventh inning as the Braves moved 30 games over .500 with their season-high ninth straight win, 4-2 over the Cleveland Guardians on Monday night.

Harris connected for solo shots in the third and fifth innings off Guardians rookie Gavin Williams (0-1), who in his third career start had to face a lineup featuring six All-Stars and no detectable weaknesses.

Harris may be last in Atlanta's order, but he's batting .416 (37 of 89) with seven homers and 16 RBIs in his last 24 games. The Braves don't have any holes in their relentless lineup.

"I feel like it's pretty frustrating for the other pitchers," said Harris. "They get through who they think is going to do all the damage and they get down to the bottom of the lineup and we can still do a little damage. It's a pretty special lineup."

Marcell Ozuna also homered for the Braves, who have won 17 of 18 and 24 of 27.

Atlanta, which has had three winning streaks of at least eight games, improved MLB's best record to 57-27.

Manager Brian Snitker has no explanation for how his team finds ways to win.

"I don't know," he said. "We just do."

Elder (7-1) didn't give up a run until the seventh, when Amed Rosario touched him for a two-run single. A.J. Minter came on and got out of a two-on jam by popping up All-Star José Ramírez, and Nick Anderson retired Myles Straw with two on in the eighth.

Raisel Iglesias worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his 15th save.

During two rain long delays over the weekend in Chicago, Francona did some advance prep work to be ready for the Braves. Their statistics are striking.

"I got nauseous," Francona said.

He didn't feel much better after seeing Atlanta in person.

"You make a mistake sometimes and this is a lineup, probably the ultimate lineup, that if you leave something over the plate," he said. "They hit two the other way."

Harris gave the Braves a 1-0 lead in the third with his eighth homer, which triggered an inadvertent launching of fireworks above Progressive Field — a celebration normally reserved for home runs by the Guardians.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Marcell Ozuna celebrates after his home run in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians, Monday, July 3, 2023, in Cleveland.

But as Harris rounded the bases, a loud boom reverberated through the ballpark and sparklers lit up the sky, prompting loud boos from the sellout crowd.

"I was confused at first why everybody started booing so loudly," Harris said. "I thought it was towards me, but I remember when I crossed the plate the fireworks went off and then I got in the dugout and they were talking about the fireworks. It kind of throw me off there."

REDS 3, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joey Votto hit a two-run home run to end an 0-for-21 slump, Ian Gibaut pitched out of a jam in the sixth inning and Cincinnati beat Washington for its fifth win in six games.

Votto homered in the fourth off Jake Irvin, depositing the ball just inside the visiting bullpen in left-center field and driving in Elly De La Cruz. It's his fourth home run in 12 games this season since returning in June.

Luke Weaver (2-2) picked up the win by allowing two earned runs on six hits in five-plus innings. He was spared a 10th consecutive no-decision —or worse—when Gibaut got through the sixth, allowing just one hit, striking out Corey Dickerson and inducing a fly-out from Derek Hill.

Catcher Tyler Stephenson drove in the Reds' other run with an RBI single in the second. Fresh off being named an All-Star for the first time, closer Alexis Díaz picked up his 24th save.

Jeimer Candelario hit his 12th home run of the season, a solo shot in the fourth inning for Washington. Irvin (1-4) struck out three and allowed six hits.

MARLINS 5, CARDINALS 4

MIAMI (AP)—Nick Fortes hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning and Miami rallied to beat St. Louis.

Marlins pinch hitter Yuli Gurriel tied it in the seventh with a two-run double against reliever Andre Pallante (2-1) after two straight walks. The Marlins then inserted the speedy Jon Berti to pinch run for Gurriel, and Berti scored on Fortes' ground-ball single.

Marlins reliever Tanner Scott worked a scoreless eighth to preserve the lead, and A.J. Puk got the final three outs for his 14 save of the season.

Paul DeJong had broken a 2-2 tie in the sixth with an RBI double for the Cardinals. Willson Contreras was 3 for 4, finishing a triple shy of the cycle.

Huascar Brazoban (3-1) got the last two outs of the seventh for the win.

YANKEES 6, ORIOLES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Bader hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning and New York rallied to beat Baltimore.

Anthony Volpe scored the tying run in the seventh on a wild pitch by All-Star reliever Yennier Cano (1-1) before the Yankees completed the comeback ahead of a postgame fireworks show.

Giancarlo Stanton opened the eighth with a hard single off Cano before Anthony Rizzo followed with a single against Danny Coulombe. After showing bunt on the first pitch, Bader drove a 1-1 sweeper into the left-field seats for his seventh homer.

Tommy Kahnle (1-0) stranded former Yankees outfielder Aaron Hicks in the eighth to keep it tied. Clay Holmes struck out two in a 1-2-3 ninth for his 10th save.

The second-place Orioles lost for the fifth time in six games and are three games ahead of third-place New York in the division standings.

BREWERS 8, CUBS 6

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Newly signed Jahmai Jones hit a pinch-hit, three-run double in his first big league appearance since 2021, helping Milwaukee rally past Chicago.

With the bases loaded and two outs in the seventh inning, Jones hit a line drive on the first pitch from reliever Anthony Kay that one-hopped off the center field wall and scored Raimel Tapia, Christian Yelich and Owen Miller, tying the game at 6.

The Brewers completed their comeback from a six-run deficit in the eighth inning with an RBI single by Willy Adames and a sacrifice fly by Miller — both off Mark Leiter Jr. (1-2) — to take an 8-6 lead.

Brewers All-Star reliever Devin Williams allowed a double by Nico Hoerner and a walk to Ian Happ in the ninth, and then struck out All-Star Dansby Swanson to earn his 18th save.

Joel Payamps (3-1) pitched a perfect eighth inning for Milwaukee.

The Brewers won their third straight game and remained tied for first place in the NL Central with Cincinnati. The Cubs have lost three straight and seven of their last eight.

ASTROS 12, RANGERS 11

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—José Abreu and Chas McCormick had back-to-back RBI doubles in the ninth inning and second-place Houston Astros recovered after giving up an eight-run lead.

Abreu and McCormick also homered earlier for Houston, which took three of four against its instate rival to move within three games of the division lead. It is the closest the Astros have been in a month after trailing by as many as 6 1/2 games.

Kyle Tucker, who hit Houston's majors-best eighth grand slam in the second for a 6-0 lead, led off the ninth with a single against Rangers closer Will Smith (1-3), who had only his second blown save in 16 chances. Abreu and McCormick then followed Alex Bregman's deep flyout with their doubles.

The Rangers had their only lead on Corey Seager's sacrifice fly that made it 11-10 in the eighth.

Bryan Abreu (3-2), the fifth Houston pitcher, allowed that run in the eighth before Ryan Pressly worked the ninth for his 18th save in 21 tries.

TWINS 8, ROYALS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Edouard Julien hit a pinch-hit, solo homer to start a five-run eighth inning and Minnesota went on to beat Kansas City for the seventh time in eight games this season.

Carlos Correa had four hits from the leadoff spot and Byron Buxton drove in two runs with sacrifice flies for the Twins.

The Royals had tied the score in the top of the inning on a solo homer by Nick Pratto off Brent Headrick (2-0), the first batter he faced.

Kansas City reliever Taylor Clarke (1-3) surrendered five runs and five hits and retired just one of the seven batters he faced.

The Royals have lost 11 of their last 12 games in Minnesota.

MARINERS 6, GIANTS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run double in a four-run ninth inning against All-Star closer Camilo Doval, and Seattle held on to beat San Francisco.

J.P. Crawford broke a 2-all tie with a sacrifice fly against Doval. Rodríguez's double made it 5-2, and Teoscar Hernández added an RBI single with two outs as the Mariners handed Doval his worst outing in the majors.

Andrés Muñoz (2-1) pitched eighth to get the win. Doval (2-3) had his third blown save in 27 chances this season.

Rookie catcher Blake Sabol homered twice and drove in all five runs for the Giants. He launched a three-run shot with two outs in the ninth to bring San Francisco within one. Pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores singled before Paul Sewald struck out Brandon Crawford to end it.

PADRES 10, ANGELS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Blake Snell helped keep All-Star sluggers Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout in the ballpark, and Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer that sent disappointing San Diego to a big win.

Trout left with an apparent left hand or wrist injury after fouling off a pitch while leading off the eighth inning. He immediately shook his arm. Angels manager Phil Nevin and a trainer came out to check on the superstar and he left the field.

Ohtani wasn't able to add to his major league league-leading 31 home runs. He walked twice. Trout, who has 18 homers, walked, had two singles and drove in a run.

In perhaps the biggest at-bat of the night, rookie reliever Tom Cosgrove struck out Ohtani on three straight pitches with two runners on in the sixth, one batter after Trout hit an RBI single to pull the Angels to 4-2.

Snell (5-7) held the Angels to seven hits while striking out seven and walking four in five innings.

Jaime Barria (2-4) allowed four runs and five hits in five innings, struck out five and walked none.

DODGERS 5, PIRATES 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Max Muncy hit his 18th homer of the season, and Los Angeles got Dave Roberts his 700th win as the Dodgers' manager.

Jason Heyward and Miguel Rojas had RBI doubles to help the Dodgers bounce back after dropping the last two games in a weekend series at Kansas City.

Caleb Ferguson (5-3), the second of six Los Angeles pitchers, got the win. Evan Phillips worked the ninth for his 12th save

Mitch Keller (9-4) gave up five runs (four earned) in five innings and struck out seven. The Pirates have dropped three straight as they left nine on base and were 2 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

Anthony Edwards, Timberwolves agree on max contract extension

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (1) starts a fast break, trailed by teammates, guard Mike Conley (10) and center Rudy Gobert (27) in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, March 27, 2023.

The Minnesota Timberwolves have made it clear: They're going to build around Anthony Edwards.

The Timberwolves and Edwards agreed on a max extension on Monday—five years, $207 million, with a chance of the deal reaching $260 million, agent Bill Duffy confirmed to The Associated Press.

Edwards' new contract will begin in the 2024-25 season. He becomes the fourth player to get the maximum rookie-scale extension so far this summer, joining Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton, Charlotte's LaMelo Ball and Memphis' Desmond Bane.

His deal would reach the supermax level if he makes an All-NBA team.

Edwards was an All-Star for the first time this past season, and he has gotten better in each of his first three years with the Timberwolves.

His scoring, rebound, assist, steal and shooting numbers have increased each season. Edwards averaged 24.6 points, 5.8 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 1.6 steals on 46% shooting this past season—while shooting 37% from 3-point range.

Only nine players averaged as many points, rebounds and assists per game as Edwards. Of the nine, he was the youngest at 21. Add the steals per game to that list, and Edwards became the youngest player to have those averages in each of those categories since LeBron James in 2005-06.

The only question regarding Edwards and the extension was how quickly it would happen. By league rule, Minnesota had to wait until July 1 — the deals for Bane and Haliburton, for example, came shortly after midnight EDT in the wee hours of Saturday.

Another couple of days didn't seem to hurt the Wolves.

Edwards was the No. 1 pick in the 2020 draft and turns 22 next month — when he's scheduled to be part of the USA Basketball roster that'll play in the FIBA World Cup. He took a significant step this past season toward becoming Minnesota's true go-to player while two-time All-Star Karl-Anthony Towns missed 52 games with a calf strain.

The Wolves now have three max players on their roster in Edwards, Towns and center Rudy Gobert. Last year, the Wolves and Towns agreed to a $224 million contract extension as soon as the negotiation period opened. Gobert, whose first season with Minnesota after the whopper trade with Utah was filled with growing pains between him and his new team, has three years left on his deal. Towns has five.

The Wolves made the playoffs in each of the last two years, falling in the first round both times. They'll try for a third consecutive winning record this coming season, a streak the likes of which the franchise hasn't enjoyed since six straight years over .500 from 1999-00 through 2004-05.

Keeping Kuzma means Wizards aren't starting over, even after subtracting Beal, Porzingis

By NOAH TRISTER
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP

Washington Wizards forward Kyle Kuzma gestures to teammates during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings on March 18, 2023, in Washington.

After dealing away two of their top players this offseason, the Washington Wizards are keeping the third.

And now their direction is a little less obvious.

Kyle Kuzma agreed to a $102 million, four-year deal with the Wizards, a person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday. The deal comes on the heels of trades in which Washington agreed to send Bradley Beal to Phoenix and Kristaps Porzingis to Boston.

Kuzma opted out of a contract worth $13 million for next season, then received a much larger deal when free agency began Friday. He averaged 21.2 points per game in 2022-23, when Washington missed the playoffs for the second season in a row.

"DC let's turn the city up," Kuzma said on his Instagram page Friday night.

Most deals can't be finalized until July 6, so it may be a little while before Washington's front office comments on a series of moves that certainly reshaped the roster but ended up being something less than a complete teardown.

In the past couple weeks, the Wizards have agreed to the following:

— Trading Beal to the Suns, with Chris Paul and Landry Shamet coming to Washington, and then dealing Paul to Golden State in a deal bringing Jordan Poole to the Wizards.

— Trading Porzingis to Boston in a three-team deal in which the Wizards acquired Tyus Jones, Danilo Gallinari and Mike Muscala.

— Keeping Kuzma on a four-year deal.

— Trading Monte Morris to Detroit for a future second-round pick.

The Wizards haven't advanced past the second round of the playoffs since 1979, one year after their only NBA title. They've had a handful of postseason appearances lately with the likes of John Wall, Russell Westbrook and Beal, but after back-to-back 35-win seasons, Washington brought in Michael Winger as its new team president, replacing general manager Tommy Sheppard.

Although there's been plenty of mediocrity in Washington, the Wizards haven't won fewer than 25 games in a full 82-game season since 2011. Consequently, they haven't been picking all that close to the top of the draft. Washington traded up a spot this year to nab 18-year-old Bilal Coulibaly at No. 7 — a move that also seemed to indicate that the Wizards were focused on the long term.

But if shedding Beal and Porzingis looked like the start of a complete rebuild, keeping Kuzma — and even taking Poole, who is about to begin a four-year, $128 million deal — sends a mixed message.

To be fair, it also means Washington's potential rotation next season deserves a second look. A starting five of Jones, Poole, Kuzma, Deni Avdija and Daniel Gafford could be entertaining if nothing else — and the Wizards also have Corey Kispert, who shot 42% from 3-point range last season. There's some upside now, at least on the offensive end.

If all that means is another 35-win season, it's debatable whether Washington has made any real progress, but the 27-year-old Kuzma certainly earned his big contract, and perhaps Poole can take advantage of a fresh start after a rough postseason with the Warriors. There are surely more moves to come as Winger and his front office try to mold the roster to their liking.

The Wizards have already made plenty of changes, but they aren't quite starting over.

USA Basketball fills World Cup roster with Josh Hart as last commit, source tells AP

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

New York guard Josh Hart has given his commitment to USA Basketball to play in this summer's World Cup, a person with knowledge of the decision said Sunday.

Hart is the 12th, and presumably final, person to commit to the team, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the roster has not been announced by USA Basketball. That announcement is expected at some point this month; the team begins training camp in Las Vegas in early August.

And the roster could still change, for a variety of reasons. There will be a select team chosen by USA Basketball for the World Cup squad to play and practice against in Las Vegas, and players from the select team could be elevated to the World Cup roster in case of injury or should a committed player bow out.

Hart joins his Knicks teammate Jalen Brunson on the list of committed players, along with Brooklyn teammates Cam Johnson and Mikal Bridges, Orlando's Paolo Banchero, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton, the Los Angeles Lakers' Austin Reaves, New Orleans' Brandon Ingram, Utah's Walker Kessler, Milwaukee's Bobby Portis and Memphis' Jaren Jackson Jr.

The team will be coached by Golden State's Steve Kerr, assisted by Miami's Erik Spoelstra, the Los Angeles Clippers' Tyronn Lue and Gonzaga's Mark Few.

Of the 12 players, six — Ingram (24.7), Edwards (24.6), Brunson (24.0), Haliburton (20.7), Bridges (20.1) and Banchero (20.0) — averaged at least 20 points per game in the NBA last season.

The Americans will play five warm-up games before the World Cup: Aug. 7 against Puerto Rico in Las Vegas, Aug. 12 against Slovenia and Aug. 13 against Spain in Spain, then Aug. 18 against Greece and Aug. 20 against Germany at Abu Dhabi.

The World Cup runs from Aug. 25 through Sept. 10 in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia. The Americans will be in Manila for the entirety of their stay in the tournament and have group stage games against New Zealand on Aug. 26, Greece on Aug. 28 and Jordan on Aug. 30.

The tournament is the primary qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The U.S. will have to finish as the best or second-best team from the Americas Region at the World Cup to automatically qualify for Paris, where the Americans will seek a fifth consecutive Olympic title.

The top two World Cup finishers from Europe and the Americas, as well as one from Africa, Asia and Oceania, will earn berths into Paris 2024.

Tenepere suits up for Team Boston in Bill Russell tribute

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Former Mawati forward Ramsa Tenepere, fifth from right, poses with his Team Boston teammates in the recent two-day Philippine Athletic Sports Association basketball tournament.

Former Mawati forward Ramsa Tenepere recently played for Team Boston in a two-day tournament that served as a tribute to the late Celtic great Bill Russell.

"I did well as a role player with my defense in our last game during the two-day PASA tournament against Annapolis, Maryland. I was tired because I never played two games in a day since I left Saipan. But my team did our best in the tournament," he said.

PASA stands for Philippine Athletic Sports Association and Tenepere's Team Boston eventually lost to Annapolis by a hair, 51-50.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ramsa Tenepere, left, poses with ex-Philippine Basketball Association guard Dale Singsong.

Aside from the 2023 PASA two-day tournament, the 5'8" pride of Alaminos, Pangasinan has also suited up for New England in the Jammers All Filipino League in the spring season and is currently playing for A Team in the Boston Asian Basketball League in Massachusetts.

Among the ex-players from the Philippine Basketball Association that suited up in the leagues he played in were former Shell Rimula X guard Dale Singson and former Alaska shooter Rhoel Gomez.

On how much he adjusted his playing style after moving to the U.S. mainland, the 38-year-old Tenepere said, "I play small forward and power forward here in Massachusetts. But back in Saipan, I used to play all-around."

Tenepere left Saipan in November 2021 and after a short vacation in his native Philippines, he moved to Boston at the end of January 2022 for what he says for "a better opportunity."

"I currently live in Everett, Massachusetts or they call it Greater Boston and I'm currently working for United Airlines as a ramp service employee."

Aside from Mawati, Tenepere also played for El Segundo Restaurant in the Inter-Restaurant Basketball League and POI in the Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League and Fong's Bakery, SSFM, Tan Holdings, Chowtime, Tsingtao, and Ming Yang Supermarket in various commercial leagues on Saipan. He started playing basketball on Saipan way back in 2004.

Asked what's his most memorable game on Saipan, Tenepere said it's definitely the finals of the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League where his team, Tsingtao Boyz, defeated Darwin Barbo's Connie's Catering for the championship.

"I think that's my most memorable game because we all gave our hearts and our best during that championship game. We did not give up and each player contributed from offense to defense."

While he has settled nicely on the East Coast, the former employee of Kanoa Resort and Pacific Oriental Inc. said he still fondly reminisces about life in the Commonwealth.

"What I miss the most about Saipan is the simple island life and the beaches."

MASTER

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the CNMI.

About the course, he said "it was a little bit humid and hot—it was wet after the rain, but it was a nice race."

Chisato, for her part, said the course was alright.

"The course was OK and the weather was just fine as it wasn't that hot yet. I just had to avoid the puddles of water along the street. It was an enjoyable run overall," she said.

Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Run Saipan president, said of the race, "I was very happy with the amount of people who ran it within the short few days we had when we opened up registration. There were a lot of people who returned for the third year in a row so it looks like we have a good group of runners making it a 4th of July tradition. Hopefully we get as big as the NMA Turkey Trot. I'm very happy and thrilled with this year's results."

He added, "For the fourth year installment I hope SSG Pocaigue will bring his whole unit to run it next year. I will even open up a unit only category for the men and women of the 9th MSC and 100th BN 442nd IN. Nothing would scream America harder than Beach Road flooded with U.S. Army Black and Gold runners on America's birthday."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 47 runners plus one four-legged friend took part in Run Saipan's 3rd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race yesterday morning.

MAN

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Man Amigos strung Peleliu for a wild ride in the third game as they found their swings and kept the runs coming and finally got the win against Peleliu. "We can't ask for more than that. Everybody put their hearts to it. The better team came out victorious today."

He added "We appreciate this league, Marpac and all the sponsors and organizers and all the teams as well as the players' wives and better halves out there. We will try and come back strong next year!"

CAROL

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"I would like to continue pursuing both academic and sports excellence until my final year. It's the student athlete's role to manage the time effectively. I think having personal goals and making a weekly plan as a student athlete are helpful. It helps with time management," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

Lee, who is competing in a women's under-25 tournament in Thailand right now, said she had to sacrifice a lot to strike a good balance between her academics and her stint in the Yellow Jackets women's varsity tennis team.

"Having a social life with other students who are not student athletes, missing out on school events, or any sort of programs that's not related to sports, and having free and open days are some of the sacrifices I had to make."

Another difficulty in being an achiever in both sports and academics is her sleep schedule.

"Maintaining sleep consistently, being able to have time to eat lunch, having to sustain energy for the whole day are also some of the challenges," she said.

Georgia Tech women's team tennis coach Rodney Harmon, meanwhile, said he continues to marvel at Lee's ability to be the best version of herself on the court and in the classroom.

"Carol is the epitome of a scholar-athlete. She excels not only on the court but also in the classroom," he said.

Lee led Georgia Tech with 29 singles victories last season. She capped the 2023 season as an ITA All-American after reaching the quarterfinals of the NCAA Singles Championship and earning a Top 16 seed in the individual tournament.

The Saipan Community School alumnae led Georgia Tech from the top singles position all season, producing a 17-7 record in dual action. She finished the season ranked No. 14 in the ITA national singles rankings.

Lee is not the lone Yellow Jacket women's varsity player to make the 2023 All-ACC Academic Team as her teammates Kylie Bilchev, Alejandra Cruz, Monika Dedaj, Rosie Garcia Gross, Mahak Jain, and Kate Sharabura also made the grade.

Harris homers twice as All-Star-studded Braves win 9th straight over Guardians.

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Sports

Tenepere suits up for Team Boston in Bill Russell tribute.

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Master athletes top 3rd July 4th 2-miler

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Oceania Athletics Masters Championships gold medalists Kosuke Sato and Rosemarie Chisato started Liberation Day strong as they topped the 3rd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race yesterday morning.

Joined by 47 others plus one four-legged friend, they made their way north the fastest along the Beach Road Pathway from the Garapan Fishing Base to Naked Fish and back.

LEIGH GASES

First place Rosemarie Chisato, center, second place Jessica Ortizo, second right, third place Marilou Carlos, second left, pose with Run Saipan's Simon Necesito, left, and Robin Sapong, right, after the 3rd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race yesterday morning.

LEIGH GASES

From left, Run Saipan's Simon Necesito, third place Aaron Pamintuan, first place Kosuke Sato, and second place Theo Rodgers pose for a photo after the the 3rd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race yesterday morning.

Sato completed the course just 26 seconds shy of last year's first place time at 12:26, while Chisato crossed the finish line at 15:57.

Second to Sato was Theodore Rodgers at 13:13 and third went to Aaron Pamintuan at 14:49. In the women's division, second place went to Jessica Ortizo with a time of 16:49 and third place went to Marilou Carlos with a time of 18:10.

For Sato, he said "I just wanted to come out in the morning and run then celebrate July 4 at the parade later." He said his wife, Chiharu, will walk the parade for the Japanese Society of

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Man Amigos comes back to win 2023 BASA title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Undeterred from dropping the second championship game, 14-19, Man Amigos came back in the winner-take-all tie-breaking third game in a 36-8 blowout victory against their old foes, Peleliu, of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Man Amigos won the first game, 29-11, after Peleliu defeated Hagu La'mun earlier in the day to advance to the championship round.

In Game 2, Peleliu came back after just playing two back-to-back games and regrouped. They put up 12 runs early in the game as Man Amigos was silenced to just one run in the first inning.

The seven-run second inning for Peleliu was thanks to homeruns by Mark Flores and Elmer Sablan, along with a double by John Taitano and consecutive singles through the line up.

Peleliu's pitching managed to shut down Man Amigos again after Man Amigos scored six runs in the third inning and held them off to just seven more runs in the last innings. Man Amigos' offense just wasn't there as they were not able to bring in their runners in scoring position.

In the third game, it was like Man Amigos awakened from their slumber as they didn't give Peleliu's pitching and defense a chance to breathe when they scored 18 runs.

It was the opposite for Peleliu this time around as their bats went radio silent and went scoreless for three innings. By this time, the lead for Man Amigos kept growing as multiple home runs in succession made it seem like it was a home run derby instead of a championship softball game.

When the dust settled, 36 runs were on the board thanks to the combined efforts of three home runs by Manny Sablan, two home runs each from Joey Dela Cruz and Pete Sablan and one made by Bill Camacho.

It was a rematch two years in the making as Peleliu was the 2021 BASA champion after they beat Man Amigos in the second and third game.

After their win, "It's been a long time coming," said Man Amigos coach and player Derron Flores.

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LEIGH GASES

The Man Amigos is the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League champion after they defeating Peleliu in Game 3 of the finals last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Carol makes ACC All-Academic Team

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's Carol Lee was truly brains and brawn last season as she followed up her ITA All-American selection by making it to the ACC All-Academic Team in school year 2022-2023.

It marked the 22-year-old Georgia Tech Business Major's second inclusion in an all-academic team. She made it to the ITA All-Academic Team in 2021.

Minimum academic requirements for selection to the all-ACC academic team are a 3.0 grade point average for the previous semester and a 3.0 cumulative average during one's academic career. In addition, student-athletes must compete in at least 50 percent of their team's contests.

Lee, who will be an incoming senior in the 2023-2024 school year, thanked her coaches, academic advisor, parents and the student athlete development at Georgia Tech for helping her out and pushing her to do well not only in sports also but in academics.

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Lee